



Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report

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10 June 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS CONCERNING EARTH SUMMIT: Reportage on the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro will be published in special Latin America DAILY REPORT supplements.

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Haiti

Port-au-Prince radio reports that the Haitian parliament met on 9 June to discuss the ratification of Marc Bazin as prime minister. The National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc held a news conference 8 June in which it stated it "will not attend any sessions" which discuss the Villa d'Accueil Agreement, because it "does not take into account the interests of the majority of the people." Bonaire Radio reports that the "members of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party said they will boycott the debate." Port-au-Prince radio reports that the socialist bloc "requested from the Assembly a postponement on the ratification vote." The bloc is "asking for a larger consensus regarding the appointment of the consensus prime minister." In an interview with Port-au-Prince radio, Haitian Deputy Frantz Robert Monde stated, "tomorrow (10 June) we will legitimately vote on the ratification of Marc Bazin as prime minister."

El Salvador

San Salvador TV carries a news conference held by President Cristiani in which he addresses the possibility that aid from the United States will be "conditioned." He says that it is not official yet and believes "some ill-intentioned people are trying to achieve certain objectives by giving distorted reports concerning our situation to some members of Congress" without having conducted an "in-depth investigation." Regarding the disarmament of the FMLN and reports that ONUSAL "does not consider the inventory to be trustworthy," Cristiani states, "We will continue to pressure ONUSAL so that it ensures that all the weapons in the inventory are concentrated at the security areas and are destroyed later."

Venezuela

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez began his official visit to Latin America when he stopped over in Caracas, met with President Perez, Madrid TV reports, and held a news conference reported by Caracas TV. Gonzalez said, "I have great faith in Venezuela's democratic institutions. Venezuela has been a fine example of democratic development for a long time. I feel it would be reasonable to support and uphold that good example, for the Venezuelan people and for the other Latin American countries."

Ministers Issue 'Declaration' on Aid Suspension

PA0706034892 Managua *EL NUEVO DIARIO*
in Spanish 5 Jun 92 p C-3

["Declaration of the Economy Ministers of Central America in Support of Nicaragua" issued in Managua; date not given]

[Text] The economy ministers of the Central American countries, at a meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on 2 and 3 June 1992, on the occasion of the 11th Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Central American Economic Integration and Regional Development, concerned about the conditions that have been placed on international cooperation and commerce, and faced with the necessity to economically and socially develop the region, thus strengthening peace and democracy, urge the international community to decidedly support our countries by not conditioning economic cooperation or foreign trade relations.

We are concerned about the recommendation made by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that already-approved financial assistance for Nicaragua be withheld. We trust that the U.S. Government will release the committed aid so that the Nicaraguan people may face their urgent needs. This financial cooperation represents a forthright acknowledgment of the work carried out by the Nicaraguan Government which, having started from adverse political, economic, and social conditions, has made significant progress in producing economic stability, the installation and consolidation of a lawful state, and respect for the democratic process.

A delay in the delivery of foreign resources would endanger the achievements that Nicaragua has secured with great sacrifices and would go against the efforts being made at the regional level for the pacification, development, and integration of Central America and for democracy.

Costa Rica: Economy, Industry, and Commerce Minister Gonzalo Fajardo Salas

El Salvador: Economy Minister Jose Arturo Zablah Kuri

Guatemala: Economy Minister Juan Luis Miron

Honduras: Economy and Commerce Minister Dr. Ramon Medina Luna

Nicaragua: Economy and Development Minister Julio Cardenas

Panama: Economy Minister Bolivar Pariente.

'Text' of Minutes of Mercosur Ministerial Meeting

PY0606161092 Montevideo *LA MANANA* in Spanish
24 May 92 p 9

["Text" of the minutes of the third meeting of Common Market of the South economy ministers and Central Bank presidents in Buenos Aires on 22 May]

[Text] The third meeting of economy ministers and Central Bank presidents of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries took place in Buenos Aires on 22 May 1992.

The list of participants is contained in Annex I and the meeting's agenda in Annex II.

The meeting began with total ratification by the economy ministers of their countries' commitment to establish Mercosur as provided in the Treaty of Asuncion, emphasizing the irrevocable character of the undertaking.

The ministers agreed on the need to identify measures that must be adopted in each of the countries in order to achieve the goals of the Treaty of Asuncion by 31 December 1994.

In order to accomplish this, the ministers asked the Common Market Group to elaborate a draft schedule contemplating the implementation of these measures for analysis by each country's economy and foreign ministries and subsequent submission to the presidents of the Mercosur countries at the Common Market Council meeting in June.

The items on the agenda were then discussed.

1. The economic situation of member countries (short briefings, details of negotiations with the IMF, goals, debt renegotiations); prospects for customs duties in 1994; and the coordination of positions for the GATT talks.

First, each minister spoke about his country's economic situation and current economic policies.

The ministers then asked the Common Market Group to begin following up on developments and to interpret and evaluate each country's periodic economic report in order to elaborate a common economic report covering the situations of the four member countries.

2. Ask the Common Market Group to speed up studies on alternative methods to harmonize macroeconomic policies and to identify important variables where members are in agreement; the definition of methods.

The ministers agreed to ask the Common Market Group to request that the appropriate working subgroups begin identifying the first group of macroeconomic variables—particularly items in fiscal, monetary, and balance of payment policies—that can be considered measurable goals and that are items that are commonly included in negotiations with international organizations.

The work of this subgroup must conclude 30 days before the next meeting of economy ministers and Central Bank presidents.

3. Evaluation of the report elaborated by the Argentine delegation on the fulfillment of instructions issued in previous meetings of the economy ministers and Central Bank presidents.

Delegates approved the report attached as Annex III.

Regarding point 1.3 of the report, the ministers stressed the importance of Paraguay's incorporation into the GATT system. The ministers also expressed their willingness to support an initiative along this line and analyzed the implications of Paraguay's incorporation into GATT for Mercosur's common foreign duty negotiations.

The ministers decided that a new technical meeting will be called prior to the meetings at the beginning of June that Paraguay will hold with countries that requested duty negotiations. In this technical meeting, each country will talk about the importance of specific goods included in the list of products subject to duty negotiations in order to help those negotiations.

4. Analysis of export financing among Mercosur countries.

The ministers agreed that the financing of Mercosur exports will be an important instrument for the group's foreign commercial policy. The ministers decided to proceed with the studies to unify the current financing systems.

5. Analysis of proposals on the coordination of technical standards.

It was agreed that coordination of technical standards is essential for a broadened economic area. The ministers asked the Common Market Group to elaborate a project to coordinate measurements (weights, lengths, languages, etc.) and mutual acceptance of each country's standards and/or technical regulations while a complete standardization based on international criteria can be worked out.

6. Progress in establishing regulations against unfair agriculture trade practices.

The ministers stressed the progress made by Subgroup No. 1 in the regulation of unfair practices currently under study. The ministers ratified the importance of regulation because of the impact on agriculture as well as industrial products. The ministers proposed the continuation of work on the subject, asking that the document be analyzed on a priority basis given the progress already achieved and in order to submit it for consideration by the appropriate authorities as soon as possible.

7. Other issues.

7.1. Cargo reserve in the Paraguay-Parana waterway. (Referring to Article 6 of the Draft Agreement on River Transportation).

The Argentine, Brazilian, and Uruguayan delegations asked the Paraguayan delegation to consider dropping the clause on cargo reserve for river transportation. The Paraguayan delegation stated that it will analyze the request and answer before the Agreement on River Transportation is signed at the end of June 1992. The ministers stressed the importance of developing the waterway to reduce transportation costs.

7.2. Analysis of how to handle Mercosur services.

Member countries will leave the coordination of GATT negotiating positions to their missions in Geneva under the guidance of the Common Market Group.

The ministers agreed on the following with regard to Mercosur service policies:

1. Each delegation will work out a proposal, including topics and criteria, for discussion by an ad hoc group made up of experts from the four countries. The exchange of these proposals will take place within the next 15 days.

2. Afterwards, there will be a 45 day period during which each country will analyze the different proposals.

3. The ad hoc group will meet within the 15 days following that to analyze all information and propose a work schedule on the matter.

7.3. Competition Defense Law.

The Argentine delegation briefed the other delegations on its bill on the defense of competition in keeping with current Mercosur policies on prior and reciprocal information on decisions affecting trade. The ministers asked the Common Market Group to create an ad hoc group of experts in each of the member countries to analyze the bill in order to identify measures to be adopted so as to coordinate a common law on the subject.

7.4. Commercial Air Transport.

It was generally agreed that the issue was very important, but the Brazilian delegation asked for a postponement of the topic until the next meeting, when it will adopt a position on the issue.

7.5. Free circulation of energy products.

The four countries' delegations did not object to continuing progress on the issue of the free circulation of some energy products such as gas. Regarding electric energy, the Brazilian delegation considered that studies on the electric energy laws in member countries must advance first.

7.6. Easing of border transit restrictions. Implementation of measures already adopted.

The ministers agreed to urge the appropriate agencies in each country to advance in the coordination of their tasks to facilitate border traffic. It was also decided to instruct these agencies to implement decisions that have already been adopted as soon as possible and to fulfill commitments already agreed upon.

7.7. Binational entities.

Brazil reported that the Brazilian Congress recently approved the bill on regulation of binational companies that was signed by Argentina and Brazil. The president's

will exchange the ratification instruments at the next meeting.

It was also decided to give copies of the bill to Uruguay and Paraguay, seeking to extend its application to these countries as well.

7.8. Agreements with other countries.

It was decided to study the impact that agreements that have already been signed with other countries may have on the Mercosur integration process and to keep the other member countries informed on the subject. The ministers also asked Subgroup No. 1 to evaluate the impact of bilateral agreements already signed with other countries on the process.

Comparison of Text of 'Managua Declaration' CM0906165692

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish on 8 June on page 4 publishes the text of the "Managua Declaration" issued in Managua, Nicaragua by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama on 5 June at the conclusion of the 12th Central American Presidential Summit. A comparison of the LA PRENSA report with the Panama City ACAN version published in the 8 June Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 7-10, reveals the following variation:

Page 9, column 2, point 26, only sentence make read: ...between competent institutions. In addition, the transformation of communities require that they go from a culture of dependence to an active participation in the decisions aimed at improving their future. [new graf] 27. We gladly listened... (adding sentence.)

Cuba

Further on Visit by Zimbabwe's President Mugabe

Mugabe Visits Isle of Youth

FL0906184292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Today, Zimbabwe's President Robert Gabriel Mugabe visited the Isle of Youth where he expressed his gratitude to the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and the Cuban people for the solidarity shown his country. President Mugabe toured the facilities of the Higher Institute for Teacher Training—where more than 900 students from Zimbabwe are enrolled—in the company of Central Committee members Luis Ignacio Gomez, Cuba's minister of education, and Emilio Gonzales Farrat, first PCC secretary of the Isle of Youth. President Mugabe visited the classrooms, laboratories, computer rooms, and the student's housing area where a program of investments is being implemented to expand the school.

President Mugabe held a meeting with the Zimbabwean students to whom he mentioned the economic situation Zimbabwe is confronting. In this regard, he described for the press the devastating drought affecting Zimbabwe that has halted economic development of the nation.

Mugabe pointed out that his visit to Cuba was an expression of solidarity and friendship with the Cuban people. He explained that he was also highly interested in meeting with the Zimbabwean students to encourage them in their education.

Castro Bids Farewell

FL0906210692 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1932 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today saw Dr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, the president of the Republic of Zimbabwe and of the ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front], off at Jose Marti International Airport. The Boeing 747 bearing the presidential emblem took off at 1330. Its destination: the Republic of Ecuador, whence it will later go on to Brazil, where the African president will attend the Rio de Janeiro summit.

Moments before leaving our country, the Zimbabwean president held a news conference upon returning from the Isle of Youth, where he had a moving encounter with the Zimbabwean scholarship students who are there studying to be teachers. Leaders of the PCC and the Cuban Government and Zimbabwean Embassy officials also saw the African president off at the airport.

Part 5 of Interview With Fidel Castro

PA0906134492 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 6 Jun 92 p 4

[Part 5 of interview with President Fidel Castro by Nicaragua's Tomas Borge in Havana; date not given—published on 4 June by Mexico City EXCELSIOR and Madrid EL PAIS; Part IV published in the 9 June Latin America DAILY REPORT pages 2-4]

[Text] [Borge] What are the most important products manufactured in scientific biotechnical and pharmacological laboratories?

[Castro] One of the most important is the B-type meningococcal virus vaccine because it is the only one in the world and its efficiency is impressive. We have obtained an epidermic growth factor and it is being handled by one or two transnationals. We also have streptokinase, a product we have obtained through genetic engineering, which makes it much cheaper than the one obtained through other procedures. It is highly efficient when needed to paralyze an infarction and prevent the necrosis of heart muscles affected by an infarction. This is a really impressive development.

I can mention the vaccine for viral hepatitis B. Its quality is high and it is highly efficient.

We have been working on monoclonal antibodies, which can be used for a diagnose or for therapeutic purposes. We have developed different types of interferon. We have been developing several blood by-products, such as Intaeglobin, which is tremendously efficient against infections, above all in newborns.

One of the most important products we have developed is one for cholesterol. It is highly efficient, a natural product, and I think its uses are many. Its commercial name is Ateromixol, but it is generally known as PPG—it was first known by this acronym—but that is not its commercial name. It is a highly efficient product with vast possibilities in blood circulation, heart diseases, and circulatory problems. I do not want to expand on this because we are still in the research phase.

[Borge] It is said PPG increases the amatory level.

[Castro] Well, PPG is also miraculous in that sense because it generally improves a person's sex life. It is really a friend for lovers, but we are not actually marketing it for that purpose because we are still developing the appropriate medical protocols.

We know a lot about this product. I will tell you a little, I would rather tell you only a little about it. All I want to tell you is that, using this product as a basis, we can manufacture a number of products with magnificent properties.

We are working on a vaccine against cholera and I think we will soon obtain results. Researchers are very optimistic about the possibility of finding an efficient vaccine against this disease because the existing one is less than 50 percent effective and its durability is short.

[Borge] Fidel, talking about this, it is said a chemical revolution has followed the development of certain countries; and a physical revolution was followed by a subsequent development. I wonder: If the syllogism works, is development expected after a biotechnical revolution?

[Castro] Yes, of course, it has become one of the essential elements of development.

We are now using biotechnology to produce new plant varieties. We are using it in tissue cultures to find seeds. For instance, we are developing plantain plantations at a tremendous speed.

Through biotechnology, we are developing biofertilizers—bacteria that fertilize plants by taking nitrogen from the air and giving it to the plants, either by combining with the plants, or with the soil, or rather with the organic matter in the soil. We are developing biopesticides. The biopesticides are obtained through these biotechnological processes.

In these fields, we can compete with, and even beat, the developed countries because we have cooperation among all the scientific research centers. This cannot be achieved through research organized by private enterprises.

[Borge] How many scientific research centers does Cuba have at this moment?

[Castro] We have over 170 scientific research centers or units. Over 170! There is no country in the third world with the level of scientific development Cuba has achieved. There are many developed countries that do not have the degree of scientific development Cuba has achieved in many fields.

This must become one of the pillars of our country's development. One day, this can have more value and importance than the income from the sugar industry.

[Borge] How are the difficulties in every day life expressed in the inevitable problems they cause to the population?

[Castro] The difficulties are many and serious, and the human being is human, he suffers if he wants something and cannot have it, or if he wants more and cannot have it. The human being also has understanding, intelligence, and instincts. We consistently explain to the people what we do and how we do it. That way we get tremendous cooperation from the people who know that our cause is fair and that it must be defended.

[Borge] In Latin America and the rest of the world there is insistent talk about human rights in Cuba. Although

you have already spoken about this topic, I would like you to tell me what is the real situation of human rights in this country?

[Castro] I have the most sincere conviction—speaking serenely and objectively—that no other country in the world has done more for human rights than Cuba.

Bear in mind, for instance, that in our country you do not see children begging, homeless, or abandoned in the streets; but you see that in the rest of the world, even in the developed countries. Basically in third world countries, there are dozens and dozens of millions of abandoned and homeless children, without parents or support, begging in the streets, swallowing fire, or putting on some other spectacle to make a living: Could there be another country that has done more for human rights than what we have done?

If you consider that now children are sold and even exported to other countries and commercial enterprises have been created for exporting children; if you consider that children are marketed and sold in the world and with some frequency there are cases in which children are sold so their vital organs can be used for transplants; then you come across a country like ours in which not a single one of those cases has occurred: Could there be a country that has done more for human rights than ours?

If you consider that child prostitution is widespread in the third world, that children are even used for sexual trade or for sexual scenes and such things, but there has not been a single such case in Cuba: Has any country done more for human rights than ours?

You will find, for example, that infant mortality in many countries is more than 100 for every 1,000 born alive, that the average in Latin America is above 60, which means that hundreds of thousands of children die every year, and then you find that our country—a third world, underdeveloped country, a country that has been blockaded, a country that is blockaded twice as much now—has reduced infant mortality to 10.7 in children under one year of age, and that in over 30 years of revolution the lives of hundreds of thousands of children have been saved: Could there be a country that has done more for human rights than Cuba?

If you consider that life expectancy at birth has been increased considerably, to over 75 years of age, from the time of the revolution to today: Could there be a country that has done more for human rights than Cuba?

If you consider that the world in general, especially the third world, is full of unemployed men, women, and youths, and senior citizens without any kind of social protection, and you find that in our country all men and women, all citizens, receive social protection through retirement, pensions, and social security, and not a single citizen has been neglected throughout the years of the revolution: Could there be a country that has done more for human rights than Cuba?

If you consider the influence that equality has on the human being and on his happiness—equality of opportunity and treatment—if you realize that in our country the irritating differences between the millionaires and the beggars have disappeared: Could any country do more for human rights than Cuba?

If you consider that in over 30 years, measures of force have never been taken against our people, in over 30 years there has never been suppression of a demonstration by workers, peasants, students, or other citizens; in over 30 years no policeman or soldier has ever been set against the people to beat or repress them, nor have water trucks, tear gas, or birdshot been used, as is the daily happening in developed capitalist countries and the third world, I ask myself: Could there have been any country with more respect for civil or human rights than our country?

Part 6 of Interview

PA1006044092 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 7 Jun 92 p 4

[Part 6 of interview with President Fidel Castro by Nicaragua's Tomas Borge; place and date not given—published on 4 June by the Mexico City EXCELSIOR and Madrid EL PAIS]

[Text] [Borge] However, it is still said that there have been many human rights violations in Cuba. Every day I read, hear, and see reports of these alleged human rights violations in the media.

[Castro] I believe that our revolution has a particular characteristic—and I do not mean to offend anyone—that few other revolutions throughout history have had. Our people learned to hate crime, torture, physical violence against persons, and abuses of power.

The people's conscience was formed that way. However, the most interesting thing is that, when the revolution succeeded, those norms that had been established in our rebel army were maintained through the next 33 years. Therefore, we can positively assure—and all the people know it—that in this country no one has ever been murdered, no prisoner has ever been tortured, nor has any physical violence been used against prisoners. In Cuba, there has never been a death squad, or a victim of illegal methods for achieving justice or maintaining order, or anything of the kind. Throughout 33 years of the revolution in Cuba, there has never been a missing person.

[Borge] With regard to this same topic, many have said—and I believe many did so in good will—that it would have been preferable that Cuba had not used the severe penalties it uses against the enemies of the revolution who carry out illegal activities—the executions, for example. However, even if not all the culprits were executed in the last known case, at least one of them was. I am sure that it would be interesting to listen to your comments on this.

[Castro] I believe no one likes the death penalty, and I know that many people—even friends in Cuba—spoke to us and stated their points of view. They did not do so for political reasons.

What I want to say is that these executions were carried out in accordance with previously established laws and in very serious cases. We have to defend ourselves. What weapons do we use to defend ourselves? We use legality, codes, and tribunals to confront crimes.

What should we use to defend ourselves if we do not use laws and penalties? What should we do: organize death squads? Should we make people disappear or use other such methods as a defense? We will never do that!

I believe that if there is a universal agreement to suspend the death penalty, we could accept the suppression of the death penalty for all kinds of crimes. But we cannot unilaterally accept the abolition of the death penalty while we are facing the United States, while we are constantly threatened, involved in a struggle for survival, and in a life or death situation.

Let me tell you something about those men from Miami who arrived with dynamite and plans to carry out terrorist activities at public meetings and different places. This could have cost the lives of five, 10, 30, or 40 persons. Due to an elemental sense of responsibility, a basic sense of commitment to our people—who could have been the victims of those terrorist actions planned by men who had penetrated the country and who committed a very serious crime—we could not allow ourselves to be moved by pressures or by concerns, not even those of our friends. We could not be moved by the negative effects of campaigns to force us to exercise clemency.

Had the government shown clemency, what would we have accomplished? We would have encouraged that sort of adventurism and then, within a few months, we would have had not one expedition but 10, by individuals who had been deceived and convinced that the revolution was being destroyed. They would come here to murder people and later receive prizes, thereby reaping the fruit of their betrayals and crimes. What would we tell the people if we had shown clemency?

Many days had not passed when the murders at the Tarara Naval Base took place. I do not want to discuss that; it would take too long. However, I saw a 23-year old boy agonize for 35 days. They say Christ was on the cross for a few hours, but I have seen a boy suffer for 35 days in an epic battle to save his life. He was among those who survived a murder attempt when a quadruple murder was perpetrated by common criminals encouraged by the United States who, when they get to that country after perpetrating these crimes, are welcomed like heroes.

The indignation this caused among the people was tremendous. The courts punished the defendants. The victims were murdered after they had been tied. They were all finished off. Why should we have shown clemency?

[Borge] The prevailing opinion is that there is sex discrimination in Cuba. That is what they say. What are your views on homosexuality, lesbianism, and free love?

[Castro] I could make reference to a lengthy struggle that has been successful, that has gained considerable ground with regard to discrimination against women. However, an absolute assertion cannot be made. Machismo still prevails among our people although, I believe, at a much lower level than in any other Latin American people. However, machismo still exists. It has been a part of our people's idiosyncrasies for centuries, and it has many origins.

I will not deny that, in a way, this machismo influenced the views that were held regarding homosexuality at one time. I personally have no phobia against homosexuals. In reality, it has never been in my mind, and I have never supported, promoted, nor backed policies against homosexuals. I would say they happened at a certain point in time and are closely related to that heritage, to machismo.

By the way, I did not answer your question about free love. I have absolutely no objection to it. I do not know what you mean by free love. Interpreting it as the freedom to love, I do not object to it.

[Borge] That is what I was referring to. Some people say political leaders should retire once they reach age 60. What do you think of that?

[Castro] Tomas, I wish they were right that political leaders should retire at age 60. The problem is not only retiring, but being able to retire, which are two different things. Philosophizing a little on the subject, I can certainly agree with those who advocate that leaders should be as young as possible. I would recommend that a revolution be carried out by young people. However, I believe the leadership of the state and the execution of a revolutionary process require greater maturity. When we attained power, we had very little experience but, nevertheless, we have acquired some after all these years. I would say that we now have all the experience that can be had on an infinite number of aspects and issues, and that is very valuable.

The Experience of Now and the Youth of Yesterday

[Castro] In reality, what I would like at this time is to have the experience I have now and the youth I had when the revolution began. In these difficult times, when everything requires such a great effort, I would like to have those years, because a great deal of energy is needed, and I am forced to make a special effort to do what I am doing. I am doing this very willingly. However, in reality, I believe it would be much better if I could combine the two.

I would also like others to be able to do my job. I say this to you very sincerely. I fulfill my tasks, not to satisfy personal desires or eagerness, but as a duty. I do so willingly. Therefore, I am aware that my work is useful.

As long as my work is useful, I must devote it to the revolution. As long as my comrades feel that I am needed in the battle, I will stand in readiness. I am not satisfying a personal ambition, but I am doing my duty.

For the First Time I Am Calling Myself Old

[Castro] Of course, in modern times, there have been a good many statesmen who were much older than I. My problem is not so much my age but my forgetting that I am no longer 30 years old. That is my problem. My mind is adapted to 30 years of age, and I am no longer 30. I am already 65. This is what I can tell you about this. I believe the elderly should not be barred or denied the right to do politics, and I believe that, for the first time in all my life, I am calling myself old because of your question.

[Borge] I have heard it said—you yourself have told me—that you are an avid reader. What book are you reading now, which is the latest one you completed, and what do you plan to read in the future?

[Castro] Look, Tomas, I have read as many books as I could in my lifetime, and I am sorry that I do not have more time to read.

I have read all types of literature. My earliest readings were historical: histories of Cuba, world history, and many biographies. Almost all of the biographies were basically classics. In school, in high school, I primarily read the classics of Spanish literature.

Among my classic works, I have the Bible, of course. Anyone who examines my terminology will find biblical words because I studied for 12 years in religious schools, such as the Brothers of La Salle and, primarily, with Jesuits. When I had the most time to read was during the almost two years I spent in prison between 1953 and 1955.

I became familiar with political literature when I was studying in the university, especially when I was studying political economy. Later, when I studied labor legislation, I began to hear deeper discussions about Marx, Engels, and Lenin, of the different schools, and I read a great deal of all their works.

I am always reading. I have a book collection on Simon Bolivar. I greatly admire Bolivar, not to mention Jose Marti. Marti was a great thinker. I do not know if I could be accused of being sectarian for saying this, but I cannot think of anyone with the intellectual capability of Marti.

I studied systematically in prison. We had philosophy courses. We read much world literature. Imagine, we read approximately 14 or 15 hours daily for two years, except when we spent time carrying out demonstrations or preparing messages and letters. We wrote them with invisible ink, with lemon juice.

In those days I read practically all the literary works of Dostoyevski, although I do not recommend the reading of "The Sepulcher of the Living" while you are in prison.

I remember that I also read the ten volumes of "Juan Cristobal" by Romain Rolland.

You asked me what have I been reading lately. I have been reading everything. I have run out of books, and I have to go out to look for some. Last night I was reading a fiction story called "The Perfume," by Patrick Suskind.

I have always been an admirer of literature and of some writers. I have read all by the books written by Garcia Marquez, and not because of our friendship. I do not know if there is some book or story of his that I have not read. I have read much Latin American literature, although there is much yet to be read.

[Borge] If you had to state your preference in authors, who would that be?

[Castro] Cervantes.

[Borge] You did not hesitate.

[Castro] I have no doubt about that. Because of the subject and the beauty of its contents, I have read "El Quijote" at least six times.

[Borge] And what poet do you prefer, Fidel?

[Castro] I must say that I like Neruda very much. He is the one I have read the most. But I like Guillen better. There may be some nationalism, some chauvinism, in this preference, I admit it.

[Borge] Do you ever sing, Fidel?

[Castro] I have a terrible ear for music. I like music, but I have no musical talent.

[Borge] Not even while taking a shower?

[Castro] No, Tomas. Often the water is too cold, and it makes me quiver. I do not have that habit. Unfortunately, I have a terrible ear for music. I like music very much, especially the revolutionary songs, the music of Silvio, of Pablito, of Sara. I know more about Cuban music. I also know Carlos Mejia Godoy, from Nicaragua, and his song to Carlos Fonseca, his Tayacan: conqueror over death. What does Tayacan mean?

[Borge] It means a hero, a brave, courageous man.

[Castro] I like classical music, and I have a special preference for marches.

[Borge] Astrologists say that people who were born on 13 August, like you and me, like marches. They say that people who are Leo's do not walk, they march.

[Castro] Is that right? We were born on the same day! Do you have a good ear for music?

[Borge] A good ear? Not at all!

[Castro] Tomas, we are alike. It looks like there is some truth to astrology.

I Would Again Choose the Same Road If I Were Born Again

[Borge] How do you view yourself? Do you regret some past action? Do you think of yourself as a successful man?

[Castro] We have made tactical errors, and I regret those errors. However, I am certain that we have made no strategic error throughout the history of the revolution and that we have not violated any principle. Therefore, I have no regrets of this nature.

Regarding our decision to take a particular path in life, I will never regret that. If I were born again, I would again choose the same revolutionary path.

A Grain of Corn

[Borge] We have concluded a three-day conference. The least I can do is express my gratitude for your patience, for your expressions of fondness, for permitting our conversations to be made public. A dream has come true. I believe that you are more interested in good tomatoes these days—in genetics research, in further reducing the already impressively low mortality rate in your country—than in obtaining glory. All the glory in the world fits in a grain of corn.

We have known each other for over 10 years, and over the years I have noticed how you get interested in everyday events, such as a sports event, the quality of wines, and the miracle of health fibers. I have seen you laugh, and I have seen you cry. I have also seen you be amazed by ungrateful actions. I have seen you set rancor aside and set aside getting angry over an act of iniquity, or egotism, or corruption, or arrogance.

I want to explain that I am not impartial: My feelings of kinship and my convictions are on this side of the border. For several hours, I have acted as a journalist, but I never ceased being a companero, a friend. I leave impressed by the impeccable way your ideas are organized, by your sincerity. I am convinced that I have spoken with Marti's disciple, with a grain of corn [un grano de maiz].

Dominican Republic

*** Onapres Reports on Revenues, Expenditures**

*** Revenues Up**

92CA0153A Santo Domingo EL SIGLO (Economics Section) in Spanish 2 Apr 92 p 1-D

[Article by Victor Manuel Tejada]

[Text] The government's ordinary revenues in February 1992 totaled 1.0787 billion pesos, which represented a noteworthy increase of 62.1 percent (413.6 million pesos) compared with the 665.1 million pesos it collected

during the same period of the previous year, according to National Budget Office [Onapres] publications.

The growth in tax collections occurred despite a drop in inflation of about 5 percent in 1991 and a 0.5 percent decrease in GDP.

Since there was no increase in production, the result is that there was an increase in the tax burden, which means that the population is paying more taxes and that the government is taking a greater share of what little is produced.

The government's February customs revenues totaled 430.1 million pesos, which represents 39.8 percent of total revenues during the month. It was the smallest amount collected by that office during the past five months. However, this can be attributed to the cyclical downturn in imports, which always occurs during the first months of the year as a result of a slowdown in economic activity.

Compared with February 1991, customs revenues increased by 158 million pesos, a 58 percent increase.

Income taxes contributed 25.7 percent of the total of 1.0787 billion pesos in ordinary revenue in February. In absolute terms, that office collected 277.7 million pesos, which represents an increase of 46 percent (87.6 million pesos) compared with collections in February 1991.

However, compared with January 1992, income tax revenues declined substantially, decreasing from 346.7 million pesos to 277.7 million pesos, a decline of 69 million pesos. As in the case of customs revenues, this drop can be attributed to cyclical factors.

Tax revenues from internal income [sales taxes] represented scarcely 12.4 percent of the government's ordinary revenues in February. That office contributed 133.9 million pesos, which represents an increase of barely 16.5 million pesos, or 14 percent, compared with February 1991.

However, compared with January 1992, sales tax collections increased by 16 million pesos, which can be attributed to a rise in the sale of a series of products that, because of nuisance taxes, are often more costly than useful and fatten the tax collector's purse.

The National Lottery, by its nature, is an office with rather constant revenues, although in months like December, when the money supply in circulation is larger, it accounts for a goodly share of spending by the public. The lottery contributed 14 million pesos, for an increase of only 2 million pesos compared with the same period of 1991.

In the list of other revenues, attributed by the National Budget Office to the National Treasury, the revenues add up to the considerable sum of 223 million pesos. It would be useful for the authorities to reveal the source of this income.

* Expenditures Detailed

92CA0153B Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish
1 Apr 92 pp 1, 4

[Text] Government revenues rose to 1.0787 billion pesos in February 1992. Of that amount, 695.1 million pesos were budgeted for investments.

The funds were allocated on a priority basis to the agriculture-livestock, irrigation, potable water, energy, health and education sectors, according to a note from the National Budget Office [Onapres].

The following is the text of the Onapres note, with details of the allocation, by sector, of the revenues collected in February 1992.

"The National Budget Office, in the interest of keeping the public informed regarding the income and expenditures of the state for February 1992, is publicizing the details relevant to that portion of budgetary activity.

"The strategy of the present government, presided over by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, provides for essential priorities in the distribution of public funds allocated to the agriculture-livestock, irrigation, potable water, energy, health, and education sectors, without neglecting other important aspects that contribute to the harmonious development of progress and of the national economy.

"The national revenues for the period under consideration totaled 1,078,787,448 pesos, of which 695,126,240.90 pesos were allocated for investment."

"The agriculture-livestock, irrigation, and energy sectors received 143,382,808.42 pesos. In particular, the National Institute of Water Resources [INDRHI] received 62,196,770.89 pesos for the construction and maintenance of the Jigüey-Aguacate Dams and the Sabaneta Dam project, as well as for the construction of canals and the repair and maintenance of other dams."

"The Dominican Electricity Corporation received 41.9 million pesos to cover that institution's obligations and to contribute to the improvement of the country's energy system.

"The Dominican Agrarian Institute [IAD] received 13,947,563.07 pesos for the completion of several projects and for the financing of various agricultural programs. The Special Fund for Agriculture-Livestock Development [FEDA] received 1,440,191.15 pesos for the improvement of supporting programs for agriculture and other related purposes. The La Cruz de Manzanillo project received 2,178,188 pesos to plant various crops, and the Secretariat of State for Agriculture received 20 million pesos to encourage and increase agricultural production.

"The National Institute for Potable Water and Sewage received 20 million pesos for the completion of several projects.

"The Central Bank of the Republic received 284.7 million pesos to pay the public debt, and the president allocated 35 million pesos for demonetization to strengthen our national currency. The Corporation of Aqueducts and Sewage of Santo Domingo received 62.6 million pesos for the construction of the Valdesia-Santo Domingo aqueduct and other projects."

"Lastly, the Secretariat of State for Public Works and Communications received allocations of 176,791,639.45 pesos, the Office of Supervisory Engineers of State Projects received 38,359,101.34 pesos, and the Office of Coordination and Control for State Projects received 7.5 million pesos for the completion of projects and programs of social and economic interest throughout the Republic, such as housing projects, airports, ports, duty-free zones, aqueducts, sewers, highways, rural roads, and maintenance of streets and historic monuments."

*** Falconbridge Reports on Economic Activities**

92CA0154C Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO
(Economics Section) in Spanish 14 Apr 92 p 1-D

[Article by economics editor Pedro Caba]

[Text] As of 31 December 1991, the Dominican Falconbridge mining company managed to achieve two major milestones: to finish paying the debt derived from its original loan of \$195 million and to distribute \$27 million in dividends among its stockholders, something that it had not done since 1974.

This announcement was made by the new president and general manager of the Swiss- and Canadian-backed mining company, Richard R. Faucher, who made the results of last year's operating situation available to the news media.

During 1991 Falconbridge paid \$53,839,942 in taxes to the government, to which another \$19,502,342 was added, also for taxes. However, the latter amount pertained to the last four months of 1990.

In 1991 nickel production, in the form of ferronickel, totaled 64.1 million pounds, 9 percent under normal because one of the electric furnaces was turned off during the final quarter. This cut production 50 percent during that period and 10 percent for the entire year, and the decision was made to proceed toward a lower price trend.

Total sales generated receipts of \$229,293,247 for Falconbridge, with a shipped ferronickel cost (including expenses for marketing and distribution services) of \$127,658,318. This left gross profits (before taxes) of \$101,634,929.

The status report notes that \$474,801 was paid for interest on the original debt that had been arranged by the stockholders with various financing agencies (later absorbed by the Loma Corporation), which originally

totaled \$195 million. With this final payment, the company was left free of debt claims.

Discounting the total debt, depreciation, and amortization payment (\$13,172,508), and other items, the profits before income taxes for the mining company were \$91,296,025 in 1991.

The profits per share are \$9.74, based on 3 million subscribed and paid up stockholders.

In comparison with 1990, profits declined by \$3 million. That year, the company's net gains were \$32 million.

Moreover, Mr. Faucher reported that Falconbridge's proven reserves total 35.5 million dry metric tons with a 1.74 percent nickel content; compared with 36 million dry metric tons with a 1.74 percent nickel content at the end of 1990.

Falconbridge's top-ranking executive asserted that the company's exploration was continued last year.

*** Electric Power Projects Receive \$505.6 Million**

92CA0154A Santo Domingo EL SIGLO (Economics Section) in Spanish 9 Mar 92 p 1-D

[Text] During its two years in operation the Electric Power Development and Regulation Board [DDRIE] gained approval for projects with a total capacity to generate 516,075 megawatts at a cost of \$505.6 million.

To mark its second anniversary, the agency, which was created by Law 14-90 to provide an opening for private investment in electricity production, has scheduled a Mass of Thanksgiving. It will be held at 1700 hours next Wednesday afternoon at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, on 27 de Febrero Avenue.

The program will also include a buffet at 1800 hours the same day in the St. Thomas Aquinas Hall of the Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University.

The law for "an incentive to national electrical development," dated 1 February 1990, gives the DDRIE authority to devise a rate for electricity consumption; to prepare a sectorial planning policy; to determine technical standards for interconnection, voltage, frequency, power factor, and other parameters; and to oversee contracts between companies.

In a press release, the agency noted that the board is also authorized to approve programs for expanding generation and for overseeing all matters relating to the companies established in accordance with Law 14-90 and the Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE].

It explained that the projects approved and already being executed are a 25.6-megawatt, \$28.16-million project by the Energy Consortium of the East in La Romana and a 25.8-megawatt, \$16.81-million project by the San Pedro de Macoris Consortium.

It also mentioned the \$13.97-million project by the Power Transformation and Generation Consortium in Santiago, which will generate 21.5 megawatts; and two Puerto Plata Electricity projects: one that will generate 10 megawatts and will cost \$6.5 million, and another that will generate 25 megawatts and will cost \$16.25 million.

Other projects cited in the report are: the Caribbean Coast Energy Consortium project in Las Americas, which will cost \$16.64 million and will generate 25.6 megawatts; the Dominican Metallurgical Complex project in the capital, which will cost \$22.75 million and will generate 35 megawatts; and the Power Transformation and Generation Consortium project in Montellano, which will cost \$20.86 million and will generate 32.1 megawatts.

Moreover, the agency has approved projects that have not yet embarked on the execution phase. These projects involve the Foster Wheeler Electricity Generation of the Caribbean, with a 221-megawatt project that will cost \$143.65 million, and Solelec PLC Investment/Solelec Dominicana, in San Pedro de Macoris, with a project that will cost \$100 million.

Still in the negotiation are projects a 165-megawatt, \$107.25-million project by Panda Energy Corporation/Panda-Luperon (first phase) and a 19.2-megawatt, \$12.84-million project by the Puerto Plata Electricity Company and/or Transcontinental Corporation.

The agency explained that the DDRIE board of directors consists of the secretary of industry and commerce, who is the chairman, the secretary of finance, the technical secretary of the presidency, and the governor of the Central Bank.

Haiti

Parliamentary Bloc Holds News Conference

FL0906150192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report on news conference by the National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc in the diplomatic lounge of the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince on 8 June 1992—recorded]

[Excerpts] The National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc [BPFNCD] held a news conference on 8 June to reiterate its stand concerning the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. According to Senator Turneb Delpe, spokesman at the news conference, the BPFNCD has decided not to support any agreement which does not take into account the interests of the majority of the people. Senator Delpe added that the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] will not attend any sessions in which such an agreement is being discussed because those sessions have nothing to do with the Constitution of Haiti. [passage omitted]

Senator Delpe acknowledges that many parliamentarians have left the BPFNCD for one reason or another. Consequently, the Front has left only 10 of the original 13 senators, and 24 of the 35 original deputy members in parliament. He says that the Front remains open, however, to any parliamentarians who would like to take the same stand as the FNCD on the country's crisis. The FNCD does not agree with the word "consensus," which was written into the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. It seems that this word has failed to acknowledge 95 percent of the population. It is in the name of all those people that the BPFNCD is ready to support any discussions for a true national consensus, stated Senator Delpe. He also pointed out that the absence of FNCD parliamentarians in some sessions of parliament does not mean that they have given up the political struggle. [passage omitted]

During this same news conference, while answering a journalist's question, Senator Delpe stated that FNCD parliamentarians were not defending an individual, but rather the principle that provides for the president of the Republic to choose the head of government. On that score, the BPFNCD thinks it is only Father Aristide who is entitled to choose a consensus prime minister while waiting to return to power. Nevertheless, parliamentarians of the Front are willing to work with any prime minister who would agree with that principle. In the event that the ousted president accepts a prime minister he himself has not chosen, the FNCD will collaborate with that head of government to move the country forward, Senator Delpe added, speaking on behalf of the BPFNCD.

Parliamentarians Open Second Working Session

Bazin Ratification Supported

FL0906153492 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network
in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Haitian parliamentarians met in national assembly yesterday, 8 June, to close the extraordinary session and open their second working session for this year. For the occasion, the president of the Assembly, Senator Dejean Belizaire, gave a speech on the importance of ratifying the choice of prime minister within the scope of efforts aimed at rebuilding the ruined country. Sen. Belizaire spoke in his message of the necessity of saving those forced to flee extreme Haitian poverty aboard small boats. [passage omitted]

In the address, Sen. Belizaire also noted contradictions among the parliamentarians. He believes nonetheless that it is all these differences that will result in a solution to the country's crisis that will allow the parliamentarians to give the people the results they expect. [passage omitted]

During the debates, many assembly members asked the prime minister of the provisional government to present an assessment of the work achieved by his government over the past six months as provided for by the country's Constitution. After much discussion, the president of the

Assembly suspended the session and sent Sen. Ebrane Cadet to contact the prime minister on the matter. Following is Sen. Cadet's report on Prime Minister Honorat's response.

[Begin Cadet recording] Here is the answer which I received from lawyer Jean-Jacques Honorat, the head of government. He stated that the government was log-jammed because all its time has been used for negotiations. The budget for fiscal year 91-92 has never been voted by parliament. The boards of directors of the autonomous organizations have never been endorsed. Honorat himself has been waiting to leave office since 8 May, the date when the Villa d'Accueil Agreement was signed. He promises, however, to send a written report to parliament tomorrow. He took the opportunity to remind parliament that under the specifications of the Villa d'Accueil agreement, which was ratified on 23 May, the current government is a resigning government, and that its role is only to deal with the day-to-day matters of state. [end recording]

Aristide Party To Boycott

FL0906122692 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] In Haiti, the House of Deputies has begun debate on ratification of the choice Marc Bazin as prime minister. Members of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party said they will boycott the debate, but Mr. Bazin could be confirmed anyway.

The United States is said to be discussing all possible options, along with the Organization of American States for the return of democracy to Haiti. The options reportedly include sending an outside military force to stabilize the situation, although U.S. President George Bush earlier said he was not considering that measure yet.

Deputy Comments on Vote

FL1006001392 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Deputy Joseph Lambert explains the procedure that the prime minister is due to follow.

[Begin Lambert recording in Creole] Until now I must say that [words indistinct] very tight within the Lower House as far as the alliance of the deputies, which has just been established in the House, does not rally the totality of deputies who could give a vote of confidence to the general policy of Bazin's government in the event he is ratified. What is certain is that there are two votes that must take place in the two Houses. The first vote consists of ratifying the choice. In that case, there is no problem. Because if there are 41 deputies present, then a quorum is reached. If 21 deputies vote in favor, the choice is then ratified.

The second more important vote is the vote on the general policy. In this case, an absolute majority of the body is needed. The current absolute majority is now 41

deputies. It can possibly become 40 but a resolution must be voted on in this sense because several deputies have died and elections were not held everywhere, etc. In this case then, I wonder how the situation will develop in case the alliance does not reach 41 deputies who will vote in favor of Mr. Bazin. We are then closely following the development at the House, except that a committee has already worked on Bazin's file after he was interviewed. I believe that unofficially the committee has a rather favorable report to give the Assembly. This means that the choice could inevitably be ratified if the quorum is reached. As for the general policy, right now I still do not see it clearly. The alliance group must work seriously with the different deputies in the other political groups such as the National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc and the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti to see that they can reach 41 deputies. [end recording]

Deputies Meet 'In Camera'

FL1006010192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 2200 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Debates continue in camera at the House of Deputies regarding the ratification of the choice of Marc Bazin as prime minister. The committee that was established in the Lower House was charged with studying the file of the leader of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH. The committee has given a favorable report as regards his appointment as prime minister. Discussions over the past several hours at the House were mostly focused on a proposal from the socialist bloc. This team, notably led by Duly Brutus, had requested from the Assembly a postponement on the ratification vote. The socialist bloc is asking for a larger consensus regarding the appointment of the consensus prime minister. This position from the socialist bloc drew the intervention of other colleagues from other blocs. These parliamentarians stated that the consensus must be found in the composition of the ministerial cabinet. [passage omitted]

At the session today, the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, parliamentarians did not answer the invitation [to attend]. The FNCD deputies contented themselves by sending a copy of their position to the office of the House. [passage omitted] Several deputies walked to the podium to criticize the attitude of their FNCD colleagues. Those parliamentarians stated that the FNCD parliamentarians should express their viewpoints on the podium and not by practicing the policy of the empty seat. The debates are continuing right now at the Lower House regarding the ratification of Marc L. Bazin as prime minister.

Ratification Postponed

FL0906233792 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 2230 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Interview with Haitian Deputy Frantz Robert Monde by unidentified Radio Nationale reporter—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Right now we have with us Deputy Frantz Robert Monde. Deputy Monde, you just attended the closed door meeting on the request of the socialist group—a consensus was reached inside—the people in all nine geographical departments are expecting the conclusion....

[Monde, interrupting] Let me clearly tell you that the socialist group has always been a regulating group of the political life in this country. I have said it before. Today, I will tell you that it is not the first time that there has been a problem within the House, where we have met in the diplomatic room and we have found a consensus. This consensus spirit is permanent. I believe that a committee of the two groups has been formed and that the parliamentarians will reach a compromise and that tomorrow we will legitimately vote on the ratification of Marc Bazin as prime minister. As a matter of fact, I must tell you that we had the quorum of 41 deputies in order to vote in favor of Bazin.

However, we have worked with the socialist group, which has never denied its convictions and which believes that it is a consensus spirit that can help make things work. Since they want to give a definition to this word consensus, which characterizes the future government, they asked for a meeting. It was a pleasure for us. We were able to appreciate the eloquence of Duly Brutus, his courage and his historical clear mindedness. We also showed political wisdom by accepting that tomorrow at 1600 GMT we will meet again to decide.

[Reporter] Therefore Deputy Monde, everyone surely must be assured that everything will go well.

[Monde] Except for the disgruntled people who only dream of chaos and anarchy in this country.

Pro-Aristide Leaflets Found; Youths Arrested

FL0906182892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent Leo Guillaume—recorded]

[Excerpts] The military in Mirebalais arrested at least six young men over a matter of leaflets circulating in the city. They were the same leaflets that Mirebalais public

high school students found in many classrooms yesterday morning. Mirebalais correspondent Leo Guillaume has details.

[Begin Guillaume recording] Mirebalais public high school students found many leaflets with pro-Aristide slogans in their classrooms and in the streets of the city today, Monday 8 June [as heard], according to the deputy principal of the public high school, Mr. (Escame Boter). Judicial authorities have gone to the scene for a legal report. [passage omitted]

Several civil and military authorities, including Mirebalais Vice-delegate Charlemagne Clairjeune; the secondary school inspector for the lower Plateau Central, Auguste Ducken; and the commander of the subdistrict, Lieutenant Placide Jolicoeur [as heard]. In conclusion, the Mirebalais authorities, military men in Mirebalais, arrested several young men, including (Wilbert Pacom), Toussaint Malo, Arnold Rosier, and others today, Monday [as heard]. These people have been accused of being lavalas partisans. Leo Guillaume for Radio Soleil in Mirebalais. [end recording]

Gonaives Bishop Condemns Tortures, Repressions

FL0906184192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Gonaives bishop, Monsignor Emmanuel Constant, has reacted to the repression within the Gonaives church diocese, especially in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite and La Chapelle. Msgr. Constant is questioning the reasons for these tortures, as if the people are animals. It is time for the officials to think, to acknowledge that the church has the right and freedom to meet.

Msgr. Constant spoke of severe repressions in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite since February. These repressions have been directed toward the Catholic Church. He listed the chronology of the repressive acts. He also referred to repressions begun in La Chapelle during the first week of June as the military prevented the La Chapelle ward from celebrating its patron's feast and arrested Father (Gilles Danroc) with a group of believers who were with him.

Msgr. Constant said he has come to speak the truth on all that is going on in the Gonaives diocese because there are no journalists in Gonaives because they have all gone to the bush to hide out. [passage omitted]

President Denies Pemex To Be Privatized

PA0706140892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1943 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Text] Mexico, 6 Jun (NOTIMEX)—After the announcement of an ambitious restructuring plan, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari denied that Mexican Petroleum (Pemex), which is responsible for one third of all foreign currency entering Mexico, would be privatized.

During a meeting with oil executives, President Salinas de Gortari stated that Pemex "will not be privatized and will not be weakened". The intent of the reorganization is to ensure Pemex's strength based on the principle of maintaining full control over national resources and hydrocarbons.

According to a proposal prepared in compliance with President Salinas de Gortari's instructions, the world's fourth largest hydrocarbon manufacturer could become a seven-firm corporation with Pemex at the forefront. The proposal was made public on 5 June.

The seven firms would be autonomous. They would manufacture, refine, distribute, and market crude oil, gas, and its by-products, as well as perform petrochemical processing. The project also includes a drastic personnel reduction from 115,000 to 60,000 workers.

The new proposal would give rise to firms such as Pemex Production, Pemex Refinery, Pemex Gas, Pemex Gas Marketing, Pemex Petrochemical, Pemex Petroleum Distribution, and Pemex Petroleum Marketing. The objective of the proposal includes breaking up the gigantic petroleum structure and grouping the different activities into smaller, more manageable firms. Pemex is one of the 10 largest oil companies in the world and is the leading petrochemical company in Latin America. This reorganization would be the first significant change for Pemex since the government nationalized the oil industry in 1938.

Pemex recently announced that Mexico counts hydrocarbon reserves amounting to approximately 65 billion barrels, which, considering the current production rate, could cover demand for the next 30 years.

In addition, Pemex produces approximately 2.4 million barrels of crude oil per day. Of that amount, 1.3 million barrels per day are sold to foreign markets; the rest is for national consumption.

During 1991, crude oil sales to foreign markets amounted to \$12 billion in revenues. Mexico's total export revenues totaled \$39 billion.

President Salinas de Gortari said the objective of the reorganization is to make Pemex a company better suited to face end-of-century demands and challenges of the new millennium.

The Mexican president also pointed out that it is a very profitable industry, providing revenues that strengthen the national economy and thereby allowing a better and

more equitable distribution of those elements that bring about social and familial well-being.

President Hosts Banquet in Honor of Kuwaiti Emir

LD0406192792 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in English
1830 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Mexican president hosted a state banquet in honor of his highness the emir and his accompanying delegation to which Mexican senior officials were invited.

Addressing the gathering the Mexican president welcomed his highness the emir's visit and said the Kuwaiti people belonged to the Arab nation which provided the world with a great culture of worldwide influence.

In a reply speech his highness the emir said we are visiting a people of a great civilization, and friendly people indeed. His highness added that Mexico, people and government alike, had adopted an honorable attitude against aggression on Kuwait and stood firm beside right and international equality until aggression was defeated. For that attitude we are grateful. His highness added that the policy of Kuwait is based on peace, mutual respect, and the exchange of benefits and interests, yet there are these values to which many countries (advocate) but they need to be protected against tyranny and dictatorship.

* Problems Arising From Seized Properties Noted

92CA0152A Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish
No 806. 13 Apr 92 pp 18-20

[Report by Francisco Ortiz Pinchetti]

[Text] Chihuahua—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said: "A ranch belonging to drug traffickers will be a ranch that is parceled out among campesinos."

No sooner said than done. More than 152,000 hectares of property seized from alleged drug traffickers in this state have been parceled out among campesinos petitioning for land.

Too bad the measure was without legal grounds.

The landowners, whether they are drug traffickers or not, have filed for amparos and gotten them, one after the other.

The big problem now is giving them back the lands that the ejido members to whom they have been awarded are already in possession. Some 1,000 Chihuahua campesino families, among whom 59 estates have already been parceled out, have been left practically up in the air.

"It was a demagogic measure whose consequences are just beginning to be seen," says attorney Enrique Ochoa Godoy, an adviser to the Campesino Democratic Front FDC. "A new and serious social and political problem has been created."

The possibility of confrontations is not a remote one. Violence has already appeared in Buenavista de Atascadero, in the highland municipality of Guadalupe y Calvo, where one ejido member has been killed in the land dispute between the legal owners and the campesinos to whom it has supposedly been awarded.

The legal muddle has agrarian authorities in a bind, as they are now supposed to tell the campesinos that they cannot have the land.

"In some cases negotiations are going on with the owners to get them to surrender or sell part of their property," remarks the delegate of the Agrarian Reform Secretariat [SRA], Jose Lopez Villegas.

As far as the president of the Chihuahua Bar Association, Leopoldo Gonzalez Baeza, is concerned, the issue is beyond discussion.

"The procedure that has been followed is clearly unconstitutional. Confiscation is banned by our constitution."

To make matters worse, he says, in many cases innocent people have been stripped of their estates "arbitrarily, out of revenge, or because of the ambitions of police chiefs."

For four years these chiefs were led by the state's famous Federal Judicial Police commander, Elias Ramirez, a former bodyguard and protege of Governor Fernando Baeza Melendez.

High-speed Parceling

At a meeting with Chihuahua campesino federations in Meoqui on 11 May 1989, President Salinas de Gortari reaffirmed his administration's decision to wage a head-on battle against drug trafficking, "the cancer that, when left to do as it wishes, can destroy the health of Mexicans and also damage the security of our nation."

Therefore, he said, "we will continue to vigorously combat this problem, which is so worrisome to Mexican families and which so disrupts harmonious coexistence among us all."

He then announced:

"And here, in your presence, I am making the pledge that, once the investigation is completed, a ranch of drug traffickers will be a ranch that is parceled out among the campesinos. We will do so in Chihuahua and in the rest of our republic because those who damage the health of Mexicans must realize that we will use all of the power of the State to combat them and that the properties they have acquired through this illicit activity will revert to the patrimony of Mexicans."

In the wake of the president's decision, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic [PGR] instructed the agents of the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office [MPF] in several states around the country to place the estates

seized from alleged drug traffickers at the disposal of the SRA so that they could later be parceled out among people petitioning for land.

Fifteen months later, around a quarter of a million hectares had been handed over to campesinos in 10 states, the largest portion in Chihuahua: 152,881 hectares.

Around 52,000 hectares of land supposedly or actually owned by drug dealers were parceled out in Sonora; in Coahuila, more than 14,000; in Tamaulipas, 12,000; 8,000 in Zacatecas; 10,000 in Baja California Sur; 553 in Chiapas; 710 in Nayarit; and 300 in San Luis Potosi.

The PGR's turning over of land to the SRA and its subsequent parceling out are based on an "accord concerning the procedure for seizing assets and concerning the disposal of the seized assets," which was published in the Official Gazette on 12 July 1990. In the judgment of attorney Gonzalez Baeza, this accord is in flagrant violation of constitutional provisions.

The second paragraph of Article 14 of the General Constitution of the Republic reads:

"No one may be deprived of life, liberty, or property, possessions, or rights except by legal action pursued before previously established courts in which the essential formalities of the proceeding are complied with and in accordance with the laws issued prior to the event."

The SRA delegate in Chihuahua, Lopez Villegas, remarks that "there are two opposing criteria" in the matter of the seizures and that there are even Supreme Court precedents on both sides.

"My personal opinion," he says, "is that land has a social function and that if someone uses it for an unlawful purpose, it is as if he is not working it. It loses its social function and, consequently, can be attached."

The jurists interviewed here, however, agree that the confiscation or seizure of assets is unconstitutional. "The constitutional provision is extremely clear," says attorney Hector Villasana Rosales, the founder of the Mexican Amparo Institute. "So much so that the judges are granting the amparo in most cases."

He feels that the SRA made a serious mistake by turning the lands over de facto to the campesinos without complying with the legal procedure. "And now they do not know what to do with them."

Amparo After Amparo

According to the registers of the local SRA office, 59 seized estates have been turned over in Chihuahua to 45 ejido centers with a total of 959 campesinos. Thirty-eight amparos have been filed for. Of the nine that have been approved, five have already been executed. Twelve have been dismissed on appeal, and 17 are still pending.

Fausto Salgado, an attorney for several of the affected property owners, charges that in many instances lands

were seized without any legal grounds "in a exceedingly arbitrary manner without any charges against the owners."

As an example he cites the case of Mario Vega, who owns the "El Tanque" ranch in colonia [urban center] Ocampo very close to this capital. In late 1986, without any charges having been filed against him, his estate and all of its facilities, including a 30-hectare sprinkler irrigation system, were seized from him.

In early 1990 the estate was turned over to a group of campesinos. "To date," the attorney says, "the beneficiaries have not even planted on the lands. They use the ranch for weekend outings, nothing more." The owner has filed a request for an amparo.

In other cases, the agrarian authorities are not giving the estates back, even though the amparo has already been granted. This is the case with Astolfo Rascon Macias, who owns the "El Piloncillo" and "Mesteno" ranches in Guerrero, and the Aviles Meraz family, which was granted an amparo in 1989 but has still not gotten back its "San Antonio" ranch in Jimenez.

"A tremendous social problem has been created, mainly because the SRA parceled out lands that were in dispute," Salgado says. "Moreover, in many cases it turns out that the campesino beneficiaries have neither the resources nor the know-how to farm the lands, while their legal owners have to go through bureaucratic red tape for three years or more, which winds up ruining them."

According to attorney Villasana Rosales, the federal authorities have already changed their minds about this problem. "The political will now exists to return the improperly seized assets. The problem is what to do with the ejido members to whom they were awarded and who are obviously refusing to give them up."

The government has gotten itself into a fine mess.

Although most of the disputed estates are in the Chihuahua highlands, the problem exists practically throughout the state, especially in the municipalities of Guadalupe y Calvo, Guerrero, Parral, Jimenez, Camargo, Juarez, Meoqui, and Chihuahua.

A case that Villasana Rosales himself describes as "criminal" involves the De la Rocha family, which owns a 10,033 hectare estate in the town of Buenavista de Atascadero in Guadalupe y Calvo.

Speaking on his own behalf and for his relatives (none of whom have had charges filed against them), Sergio de la Rocha Madrigal, a representative of the Commission for Solidarity and the Defense of Human Rights in the Tarahumara Sur region, describes the ordeal.

The estate in question, which was originally a single unit, was divided in two in 1977: Buenavista I and Buenavista II. Then, Buenavista I, totaling 3,565 hectares, was split into 17 parcels, each of which was registered in the name of the original owner's heirs.

In October 1988 the owners discovered a small marijuana plot on Buenavista II, which they reported to the authorities.

After the MPF in Parral had begun the preliminary investigation, the SRA was asked to determine the size and boundaries of the estate that was the subject of the report. The SRA, in an apparent mistake, cited the boundaries of Buenavista I and II as if they formed a single estate.

The MPF then ordered all 10,033 hectares seized, later placing them at the disposal of the SRA. Pursuant to the president's order, on 5 November 1989 the local SRA office turned the lands over tentatively to a new ejido population center consisting of some 80 campesinos who had been petitioning for land since 1978.

To top it all off, says De la Rocha, one of the beneficiaries is Francisco Vargas Medrano, who according to investigation 33-88 allegedly planted the marijuana that created the whole problem.

Physically stripped of their lands, the owners then began an endless string of bureaucratic formalities and paperwork. First they filed for an amparo. Then they turned to the agrarian authorities, the MPF, and the regional coordinating office of the PGR. Finally they appealed to the state government.

Governor Baeza Melendez accepted their petition and asked the Rural Development Directorate to look into their case. Its ruling, dated 26 June 1990 and based on an analysis of the documents in question, including the Public Register of Property, favored the complainants and recommended that the MPF be asked to modify the seizure and limit it to the Buenavista II estate and that the local SRA office tell the ejido members that they would have to abandon the land and give it back to its rightful owners.

Baeza Melendez did in fact make this request, on 27 November 1990. In February 1991, the agent of the MPF, Guillermo Gutierrez Lujan, asked the local SRA office to modify the seizure. In May the governor asked the agrarian delegate to comply with the MPF request.

Another year has now gone by, and nothing has happened.

"The Agrarian Reform cannot return the estate until the MPF gives it an official document annulling the seizure," explains the SRA delegate, Lopez Villegas. "Maybe what has happened is not fair, but we have to reconcile fairness with the law. We have been willing to help them."

As times goes by, tensions between the small landowners and the ejido members are mounting. Last Sunday 22 March ejido member Rigoberto Carrera Medrano was killed. His fellow members accused one of the De la Rochas, Javier, of murdering him.

Salinas de Gortari 'Will Have To Answer'

While on the one hand countless arbitrary acts have been committed, says the president of the Bar Association, Gonzalez Baeza, on the other more than a few real drug traffickers have succeeded in recovering their assets because of legal shortcomings in the seizure thereof that enabled them to obtain amparos.

"What we are now seeing is the result of four years of a wrongful battle against crime that has been full of irregularities and abuses," he comments. "Wrongdoing cannot be combated by further wrongdoing."

It has been more than a year since the PGR turned over seized lands to the SRA, which seems to indicate that the federal government has rectified its stand.

The current problem, however, which will no doubt worsen in the months to come, is the uncertain situation of hundreds of campesino families throughout the state, from whom the lands that they were awarded will now have to be taken away and returned to their owners by order of the courts.

The same goes for Sonora, Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Coahuila, and Veracruz.

In Sonora, the Popular Peasant and Worker General Union called on social organizations on 5 April to form a common front to defend 52,000 hectares that were seized from alleged drug traffickers and turned over to ejido members by the president.

Sonora leader Miguel Angel Castro Cossio stated that "this is urgent. The drug traffickers and their families are getting amparos." He warned: "We will not return a single centimeter of land to the drug traffickers."

Ochoa Godoy, an adviser to the Campesino Democratic Front of Chihuahua, whose members did not accept lands seized from alleged drug traffickers precisely because of the uncertainty arising from the unconstitutional procedure, feels that President Salinas de Gortari "will have to answer to the campesinos for the imminent seizure of the lands that he gave them."

In light of the de facto situation, he suggests that "if the campesinos who benefited are already working the land that was given to them, the federal government should compensate the previous owners."

El Salvador

Cristiani Holds News Conference 8 Jun

PA0906231992 San Salvador TVCE Television Network
in Spanish 1647 GMT 8 Jun 92

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani at the Presidential House in San Salvador, moderated by National Communications Secretary Mauricio Sandoval, with foreign and domestic reporters on 8 June—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Sandoval] We have a question from Mr. Maribel Vilarin from LA PRENSA GRAFICA.

[Vilarin] Good morning, Mr. President. We have learned that economic aid for El Salvador has been conditioned by the U.S. Congress. Could you explain the effect of this decision in El Salvador, and could you explain the effect of these types of conditions imposed upon the entire region? Nicaragua is also facing the same problem.

[Cristiani] As for El Salvador, the conditioning of the aid has not been made official yet. It was simply a statement made by some members of one of the committees of the House of Representatives. Nothing has been made official yet. We believe some ill-intentioned people are trying to achieve certain objectives by giving distorted reports concerning our situation to some members of Congress. Unfortunately, these members make statements or decisions without trying to conduct an in-depth investigation of our true situation.

We have realized that congressmen, very often, are not the ones making the first decisions. Their helpers or their staffers, as the advisers of congressmen and senators are called, are the ones who initiate decisions. As for El Salvador, we are sending them all the documents related to the El Espino case. This case is being manipulated by some groups. We want them to have all the elements to make a judgment. We are going to try to fight the unfavorable intentions of these groups.

This is not new. Many groups have tried to obtain some type of special concession by influencing congressmen. Unfortunately, some congressmen quickly pay attention to some of these groups without conducting an in-depth investigation of the case. As for the U.S. case, I do not think someone can say a resolution issued by the Supreme Court can be disregarded. Obviously, they will have to evaluate it. There cannot be a double standard. I can see a Supreme Court resolution being disregarded in an underdeveloped nation, but this cannot happen in a country such as the United States. I believe an explanation is in order, and it is currently being given to this group of people from the House of Representatives.

So far, no law has been passed restricting or freezing any type of aid. In some specific cases, the explanations will be given by the Salvadoran Embassy in the United States and also by Salvadoran delegations traveling there.

What we tried to explain in Nicaragua was the position of the Central American countries, which believe Central America has proven to be a region that has instituted democratic processes and peace and reconciliation processes as well. We are asking our friends to help us out. The aid should not be conditioned because of irrelevant matters that have no national significance and that represent the position of a few groups. The aid is necessary for Central American countries to rebuild and to strengthen their peace and democratization processes. Governments are not the ones being hurt by the suspension of the aid. Those being hurt are the Central American people, who lose the possibility of getting international aid.

That was the message we were trying to convey when the support was given to Nicaragua. Aid for Nicaragua should not be conditioned, but Nicaraguans must be allowed to continue their processes. After all, they are a sovereign nation, and their reconciliation and reconstruction processes are being implemented following these difficult years in the region.

The same applies to the Salvadoran case, but it was not discussed at the Central American summit because the conditioning of the aid had not been made official. It all resulted from statements made by some members of the House of Representatives, but the result is the same.

[Sandoval] A question from Ricardo Montoya from LA NOTICIA newspaper.

[Montoya] The Catholic Church said on 7 June that it was pleased with the report submitted by the UN secretary general to the Security Council. The Church said it was pleased with the positive aspects of the process so far and noted all that should be corrected within the process. As for the observations contained in the report, the Church said both the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should adopt a new position aimed at fulfilling the agreement. I would like to know the government's attitude toward these observations?

[Cristiani] As we have said on several occasions, we are committed to the fulfillment of the peace agreements, as best as possible, so as to satisfy the agreements themselves and not to satisfy certain groups. I believe the peace agreements will contribute to a more consolidated democracy in our country. This cannot be for the exclusive benefit of a sector but must be for the benefit of the entire population, who are the ones we must serve.

That means we will adhere to our firm commitment to fulfill our part of the agreements. Regarding the specific report, we held a meeting with the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] because we think the facts have not been accurately portrayed on some topics, and we think they should be. What is important, however, is the last point you mentioned. Channels of communications have been established to correct everything that is related to the peace process. We have been holding bilateral contacts in the presence of ONUSAL. I think this will move

along much better in some instances, and we will gradually eliminate the obstacles that have arisen. [passage omitted]

[Sandoval] Rosy Castillo of "The Sunday Report."

[Castillo] I would like to add something more on the issue of land takeovers. We know of one case, but other persons have charged that the FMLN, or allied groups, are involved in illegal land takeovers. They are also appropriating machinery and causing damage to businessmen by still collecting the so-called war tax. Have you discussed this matter with ONUSAL? Here is another question: Why is there is so much criticism of the work you have performed in the past three years? Does that mean you are not meeting with sectors opposed to your government?

[Cristiani] First, we have held many meetings on the issue of land takeovers with ONUSAL, and even the FMLN, at the bilateral level. I would like to explain what is happening. As you know, we agreed to give special treatment to cases of land takeovers reported up until 14 March—if I am not mistaken. UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding was visiting our country at that time. We devoted attention to approximately 92 or 96 properties that the owners reported had been taken over following the signing of the peace agreements. We are handling the matter, and we will soon conduct an on-site investigation on these properties to provide a specific solution in each one of these cases.

We have been carrying out evictions from all those properties taken over after 14 March. The government position was to try to reach an agreement on those 90 to 96 properties within the context of the peace process. Considering that the commitment was made to stop the takeovers by the FMLN or allied groups, we said we would proceed with the evictions. We have, in fact, evicted people from several properties. If we do not have a report, we cannot proceed.

Let me repeat. Whenever we get reports of land takeovers—and there have been a few instances of that in Sonsonate, Aguachapan, and in northern Apopa, which are the ones I recall offhand—we have always acted on them. Anyone whose lands were taken over must file a complaint before the area's justice of the peace or the closest police precinct. They have been instructed to forward the complaint here. We will resolve the cases through the National Police Directorate.

We have been very clear. The government will not allow land takeovers in the country. That is a transgression of the law, and we will act whenever we are notified. We have not taken steps in cases about which we have not been notified. I repeat. We have carried out several evictions since 14 March. The National Police can verify this information because it is keeping a file. We will continue doing that.

As for the second question, I think the reaction by the opposition is to be expected. It is always trying to put the

government in the worst light. Unfortunately, this happens systematically, impulsively, and stubbornly in some cases. It is not a truly loyal opposition, by which I mean an opposition that can make the distinction between errors and accomplishments that could really be made. That is not what we are seeing now. Opposition parties can no longer say the conflict is still raging, which could easily be disproven. Some have gone so far as to say things that are not true and to distort figures a little. I feel it is not important what a member of the opposition parties may think. However, we are interested in all Salvadorans. The opinion of the people is what counts. [passage omitted]

[Sandoval] Raul Monge of Cadena Radio Centro.

[Monge] Returning to the topic of the FMLN's disarmament, I imagine your government is keeping a close watch on the inventory because ONUSAL has stated it does not consider the inventory to be trustworthy. I want to know what will happen if it is established that the armament inventory is not accurate?

[Cristiani] We will continue to demand that ONUSAL verify the FMLN reports and that all the weapons included in the inventory are sent to the security areas. Obviously, we are alert for the reason you have stated. We also believe the issue will provide evidence of whether the FMLN has the political will to eliminate all of its military structure or, as it is called in the peace agreements, all of its military machinery. Any attempt by the FMLN to leave some of its weapons out of the security areas will demonstrate that it does not have the will to comply with agreements and to eliminate its entire military structure. We will continue to pressure ONUSAL so that it ensures that all the weapons in the inventory are concentrated at the security areas and are destroyed later.

[Sandoval] German Elmer Gomez of NOTIMEX.

[Gomez] My question is also in reference to the ONUSAL report. I would like to know if, in general, the government agrees with its report to the UN secretary general? My second question refers to the free trade agreement. Does the agreement take into account the import of toxic waste?

[Cristiani] What?

[Gomez] Does the agreement take into account toxic waste coming from other countries?

[Cristiani] First, in general, we believe the contents of the ONUSAL report reveals what has truly taken place. There have been delays in implementing some of the points included in the peace agreements. The report, however, also reflects the optimistic aspects of the process. The cease-fire has not been violated once.

As I said, in general terms, the report stated what has really happened. Both sides have had delays in complying with some of the points in the agreements. We have tried to eliminate some of the obstacles that have

developed, and we are attempting to get the process on schedule. As I have stated previously, we have reservations about some points mentioned in the report, but we have already mentioned these to ONUSAL.

Regarding toxic waste, the free trade agreement makes no mention whatsoever of it or of any material of this nature. El Salvador signed the agreement that bans the movement of toxic waste, and we adhere to it. The regional process has included the necessary agreements to impede the movement of this type of material in our area. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Santa Rosa Troops Increased To Combat Guerrillas

PA0406174192 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 3 Jun 92 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa has announced that more military units have been deployed to the Santa Rosa area, particularly Cerro Tecuamburro, in response to reports of the presence of subversive groups.

Gen. Garcia Samayoa said the subversives apparently are trying to reestablish a camp they had on Cerro Tecuamburro some years ago. Therefore it is necessary to deploy more troops to combat the groups and eradicate them from Santa Rosa Department. Gen. Garcia Samayoa said the country's political and military situation has changed substantially, because the guerrillas do not have the popular support they might have had in 1980 and 1981 when they considered themselves victorious in the armed conflict.

The defense minister said that although it is true that the guerrillas have not disappeared, they have been reduced to a minimum. He stressed there has been a marked drop in clashes in recent weeks.

He also reiterated his charges that the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] continues to plant mines and explosive devices, which affect civilians.

The defense minister's remarks come one day after Miguel Angel Montepeque, former health minister and current deputy, reported that over the weekend of 30 and 31 May, there was an increase in guerrilla actions in Santa Rosa, the department he represents in Congress.

Montepeque said the subversives established one holdup point near the 42-km marker on the highway to El Salvador, and another between Chiquimulilla and Cuilapa. The subversives also held a rally in Pueblo Nuevo Vinas.

On another topic, the defense minister said that precise instructions have been issued for the arrest of four soldiers accused of killing four people in Ciudad Peronia, Villa Nueva.

"The soldiers are fugitives; they must be arrested and face the charges against them," the minister added.

Honduras

Diplomatic Relations Established With Kuwait

PA0906202092 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA
in Spanish 8 Jun 92 p 61

["Joint Communique" issued in Tegucigalpa on 7 June 1992]

[Text] The Republic of Honduras and the State of Kuwait, guided by the principles contained in the UN Charter and anxious to promote the understanding and strengthening of an undying friendship between both nations and peoples, have decided to establish diplomatic relations as of the date this joint communique is signed.

The governments of the Republic of Honduras and the State of Kuwait have agreed to appoint ambassadors at a date both countries deem advisable.

Issued in Tegucigalpa on 7 June 1992.

Joint Communique Issued

PA0906194092 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
9 Jun 92 p 4

["Joint Communique" issued by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, in Tegucigalpa on 8 June]

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, paid an official visit to the Republic of Honduras on 7 to 9 June 1992. He was welcomed by His Excellency Constitutional President Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero. The visit is considered a gesture of goodwill and friendship.

His highness the amir conveyed to President Callejas Romero his thanks to and respect for the Honduran Government and people for the solidarity and support they gave to the resolutions and actions adopted by the United Nations during the recent Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. As a result of these UN resolutions and actions, his country was successfully liberated. The Honduran president expressed to his highness the amir best wishes for the maintenance of peace, prosperity, and stability in the Gulf region.

During this visit, both parties announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The two heads of state expressed the desire to strengthen relations in the political, cultural, economic, and trade fields.

At the end of their fruitful meeting, both parties agreed to issue the following joint communique:

1. His highness the amir of Kuwait and the Honduran President reiterated their countries' commitment to the maintenance of peace, respect for territorial integrity, the independence of states, and the self-determination of peoples.

2. The two leaders emphatically condemned any act that threatens the sovereignty of states and any form of violence or terrorism perpetrated against legitimately established governments.

3. Both leaders emphasized the importance of having the Iraqi Government fulfill all the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the liberation of Kuwait. They particularly stressed the need to establish the international commission for the demarcation of the territorial borders of Kuwait and Iraq and the need to release immediately all Kuwaitis, other prisoners, and war prisoners still held by the Iraqi regime, and in this way to put an end to this human tragedy.

4. Both leaders stated that economic and social development is essential for political stability, and to this end, cooperation among nations is a vital element.

5. With the objective of contributing to the achievement of a more dynamic and stable situation, the two leaders agreed that their respective governments will work with a spirit of cooperation and friendship to promote greater understanding of their regional and bilateral priorities. They will also consult each other in various international forums regarding topics of common interest.

6. The Honduran President briefed his highness the amir of Kuwait on the Honduran Government's policy on the exploitation and conservation of natural resources as well as the Program of Energy Development. They expressed their interest in working jointly to establish a cooperation program in these areas.

7. His Excellency President Callejas explained the opportunities offered by Honduras for investment in the areas of tourism and the development of infrastructure, technology, and services. They also exchanged viewpoints on commercial opportunities, especially in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

8. The Honduran President and his highness the amir analyzed the possibility of establishing financial mechanisms through which Kuwait and Honduras could participate in implementing development projects of common interest.

9. His highness the amir expressed his interest in the topics brought up by President Callejas and voiced his recognition of the warm and friendly welcome and the kind hospitality accorded to him and his official delegation by the Honduran Government and people.

His highness the amir issued a cordial invitation to His Excellency President Callejas Romero to make an official visit to Kuwait at a future date. This invitation was accepted with pleasure by President Callejas Romero.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa

[Dated] 8 June 1992

Armed Forces Chief on Development, Crime, Drugs

PA0906204192 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
8 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] San Pedro Sula—Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir stated the Armed Forces' budget should be directed at national development tasks because the military institution is obliged to support all government projects that seek the well-being of the Honduran people.

As for the labor conflict at the Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise, the officer said the Armed Forces will not intervene because it is an internal affair the workers should solve.

When asked how the Armed Forces view the announcement by the National Association of Small and Medium Sized Industrialists that it will close more than 250 businesses, Discua voiced his concern over the social consequences because many heads of households will lose their jobs and this could in turn increase crime.

The officer believes violence is a serious problem, not only in Honduras, but all over the world and said this scourge is caused by political, economic, and educational problems.

The top military leader added that the crime rate would drop if more jobs were available and the country had a good educational system that created awareness among students and parents assumed a similar attitude at home.

When asked whether he agrees with transforming the Army into a public security force to fight crime, Discua answered with a question: Who would defend the country against an external threat? This lead us to conclude that Discua opposes a bill to this effect promoted by certain segments of the population.

"I admit the police are confronting certain problems, but the other branches of the Armed Forces are now offering their full support to the police," the chief of the military institution added.

Discua said the death penalty issue should be reflected upon carefully. He pointed out that a popular consultation should be made to determine the merits of applying it in the country.

The military chief said that the country has a good judicial system, the problem is in its implementation, because those who administer justice are human and make many mistakes, some of them due to neglect and others "for reasons you (the journalists) already know."

He said the Armed Forces's antidrug struggle has been effective in the northern and southern coasts, where 70 kg of cocaine was seized at the Guasaule custom post on 4 June.

Discua added that the armed institution is involved in a total effort on land, sea, and air to fight the scourge of drug trafficking.

He said the Armed Forces of Central America have a regional plan to combat illegal drug trafficking.

Moreover, he added, during their summit, Central American presidents agreed to order their security organizations to fight drug trafficking.

The military chief said the Armed Forces is maintaining contacts through specialized channels with the United States to fight this scourge.

When asked whether he agrees with directing the Armed Forces' budget toward environmental programs, as suggested at the Earth Summit in Brazil, Discua said he does and added he also agrees with the idea of directing the military institution's budget to national development tasks.

Nicaragua

UNO Parties Demand Government Abide by Platform
PA0806175992 Managua Radio Cestolica in Spanish
1100 GMT 5 Jun 92

[Letter from the National Opposition Union, UNO, to President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, in Managua on 3 June]

[Text] Your Excellency Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic, Presidential Palace, Managua.

Mrs. President: The undersigned political parties formed by the National Opposition Union, UNO, which won the 25 February 1990 elections, again address you with profound concern over the very serious situation Nicaragua is experiencing due to the destabilizing and anarchic actions by leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] to obtain economic advantages and a growing share of power, as well as a result of your government's patient and acquiescent attitude toward the FSLN. This attitude has moved the government away from the political democratic forces and majority of the masses who elected you president.

Your government's conduct, which has reached the extreme by having a close, public, and constant political coordination through Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo with FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega Saavedra and General Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist People's Army, has undermined the democratic institutional nature of the country.

Gen. Ortega's tenure as head of the Army for over 12 years, his clear meddling in political parties, his communiques filled with arrogant and disrespectful statements toward the National Assembly, and his statements and

instructions to the president clearly indicate that a new dictatorship is being created in Nicaragua.

This whole situation has tarnished your government's democratic image and constitutes the reason for the U.S. Congressional decision that imperils the sorely needed and vital international aid for our country. Since November 1991, the need for a dialogue between the executive branch and our parties was established as a necessary step for a national dialogue with the FSLN. The dialogue that was started and that led to positive results between the government and UNO on 11 November 1991, was abruptly suspended on 29 November when the executive delegates rejected the 14-point agenda, which had been already agreed on.

In a 4 December communique, however, we reiterated our commitment to the dialogue and intention of reaching true agreements with the executive to implement the UNO government program and reach the proposals we must take to the dialogue with the opposition party. The president's failure to respond has delayed solving the national problems, led to tension and confrontations between the executive branch and National Assembly, and emboldened the FSLN to continue its activities of causing political disturbances and social anarchy.

In letters dated 25 February and 24 March 1992, we insisted on the need to resume the dialogue. In the latter letter, we noted that the government expanded and consolidated its alliance with the FSLN. We reiterated the only way to avoid a deterioration and violent explosion of the economic, political, and social crisis that is besetting the people of Nicaragua, is for all the political sectors to make a true national commitment to rise above anarchic groups, as Chapter 1 of the UNO government platform stated.

Yet again in a public letter dated 25 April, we reminded you of your commitment to make changes in the Army and police as a guarantee that human rights, the rule of law, order, and justice will be truly in force. In that open letter, we again apprised you of the urgent need to restore conditions for legal security and social stability that are indispensable for production and investments of local and foreign capital so the aid granted to our country from friendly governments and international organizations can continue to flow at a normal pace.

We have reached the most serious point of this crisis. The country is on the verge of collapse and disaster with no production or capital investments and with the threat of a substantial loss of foreign aid and the subsequent failure of the government's economic plans. We, therefore, are demanding that you amend the course of your government and abide by the commitment you made to the forces and political parties that led you to power to make democratic changes.

Yours truly,

[Signed] Conservative National Action, Liberal Constitutional Party, Communist Party of Nicaragua, National Action Party, Independent Liberal Party, Conservative Popular Alliance, Social Democratic Party, National Conservative Party, Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, Neo-Liberal Party, National Democratic Confidence Party, and Popular Social Christian Party.

[Issued] 3 June, Managua

Ortega Says EPS Not To Be Reduced Further

PA0906215592 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO
in Spanish 7 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Aura Lia Moreno]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, chief of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], has said the EPS will not be reduced any further as long as the other Central American armies make no progress in the defense and security process in the region, and as long as no agreements are reached on rational weapons balances.

During the past summit of Central American presidents on 4-5 June, the Nicaraguan Government was the most interested in reaching agreements on the demilitarization of the area because Nicaragua has been practically the only country to have kept all the commitments made in the previous summits.

While the EPS reduced its personnel from 80,000 to 20,000 and submitted to the OAS an inventory of all its weapons one year ago, the other countries of the region have maintained—in fact have increased—the number of soldiers and have not submitted any inventories to the OAS.

After implementing two major reduction plans, the Nicaraguan Army became the smallest army in Central America. For that reason, Gen. Ortega feels that, once the Salvadoran conflict is definitely resolved, "the climate will be much more favorable to adjust the armies to the balance of strength everybody wants."

"We hope that, following the summit, the order will be given to continue the defense and security process in order to reach a reasonable balance of forces in the isthmus," Ortega said. He reiterated that there is no plan right now to reduce the EPS.

What we do have, he explained, is a plan to improve the structure of the EPS, which entails some reductions, but this is no longer a large-scale reduction plan as it was in the past.

Daniel Ortega on Suspension of U.S. Aid

PA0906220592 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish
1100 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, Secretary General of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, met with union leaders and producers in Jinotega over the 6 June weekend. He

reiterated his rejection of, and denounced those Nicaraguans who have traveled to the United States to tell Congress to suspend aid to Nicaragua. The Sandinist leader recalled that the United States has a significant debt with Nicaragua, over \$14 billion in a suit filed at the International Court at The Hague. This suit was withdrawn by President Chamorro's Government, and now as a reward, the United States wants to block a \$10-million aid that is so vital to the nation's development.

*** Causes of Rural Unrest, Solutions Discussed**

*** Commentary Blames FSLN**

92CA0157A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
29 Apr 92 p 14

[Editorial: "Legitimate Authority"]

[Text] The protection or logistical support that only the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is giving rebels in the various parts of the country that are being pulled apart in a tug-of-war suggests complicity or some organic connection between the opposition party and the actions of these groups. At the same time, the armed conflicts in Esteli, the peaceful takeovers of Jinotega, Radio Rumbos, and the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services in Rivas, and the recent attack on private holdings in Chinandega by armed groups cannot be viewed in isolation from the circle of pressure that has been tightened around the government since the beginning of the year.

It began with the incorporation of the universities into the struggle "against liberalism," using the demand for 6 percent as a rallying cry. That was followed by the highly publicized announcement that the FSLN made when the National Workers Front truce was broken, setting off a new wave of strikes. The first strike of the year was at the Ministry of Construction and Transportation, a key institution in the effort to galvanize public investment.

The circle widened in late March with the strike by sugarcane workers, the halt by taxi drivers, and the takeover of Sebaco, until it became apparent that aggressive conflicts were being organized all over the country, including the Sandinists' promotion of a battalion of rebellious women operating in the north. The buildup to the vaunted "social explosion" is undoubtedly related to the demands of the National Opposition Union [UNO] in the Assembly, as well as those of other federations and armed groups. These demands all add up to a state of constant agitation, not because it is a great conspiracy, but because the country's real problems are part of the circle of pressure.

In most of these movements, former President Daniel Ortega appears to be taking the reins, anointed as pacifier or agitator because no one knows exactly what he is doing or what his intentions are, given that until now they have been clouded by the ambiguity of his words and deeds. The important thing is that the FSLN,

through its general secretary, bears a share of the responsibility for what appears to be a strategy of constant agitation aimed at preventing the announced economic changes from taking root so that they can boost the economy.

Another tremendous burden of responsibility must be borne by the government. There is constant talk of unfulfilled promises that have prompted those who have laid down arms to take them up again, and the government does nothing to limit its culpability when it fails to clarify what commitments it has made and what it has not been able to fulfill. The government should break the circle of pressure by confronting and clarifying its real commitments, by giving title deeds to the beneficiaries of agrarian reform to guarantee their ownership of the legally distributed lands, by providing credit and technical advice so that the redistribution can reincorporate peasants who have laid down their arms, and by finally launching the promised public investment program, thereby reducing unemployment and proving to the world that we can move forward in this country with discipline and honesty.

If anything has been made clear by the rebellions, it is the urgent need for order, authority, and anticipation of events, which is not the same as the repression some are demanding. The FSLN, UNO, the trade associations, the media, and the citizenry in general have an obligation to contribute, but it is the government that we Nicaraguans have entrusted with the task of exercising authority, and therefore, we expect it to enforce the law and maintain order and to demand respect for private property as the underpinning of the rule of law that Nicaragua needs for its reconstruction. The vast majority of Nicaraguans who want the best for Nicaragua are clamoring today for the exercise of legitimate authority.

* Socioeconomic Issues Viewed

92CA0157B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Apr 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The Revueltos Crisis"]

[Text] In view of the wave of armed takeovers of highways, ranches, and towns that has been seen in the main department seats recently, politicking is a criminal act. No one has a right to make political hay out of this turmoil when everyone—government, opposition, private sector, legislature, and media—has an obligation to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict, avoiding repression and anarchy.

It is ridiculous or irresponsible to accuse the commander of the Army for the incidents at Chinandega, as Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] President Ramiro Gurdian has done, or to accuse the general secretary of the Sandinist Front of engineering a complex social protest movement, as the daily LA PRENSA did yesterday. The causes of the despair felt by the revueltos [mixed group of recontras and recompas]—the failure to meet commitments to provide land, property deeds,

credit, and jobs—have been acknowledged even by the government itself. Consequently, people should not try to be more Catholic than the Pope, confusing a genuine explosion of poverty with alleged destabilization plots by the Sandinists. Such plots exist only in the minds of rightists who dream of bringing down the government.

In a postwar situation in which peace is perhaps the only aspiration that is unreservedly shared by the entire nation, the revueltos' armed protest cannot be applauded or encouraged under any pretext. But it is one thing to disagree with their methods of struggle and quite another to turn our backs on the crisis, pushing the government to solve it by sending in the police or the military. That would be an even worse error, a further aggravation of the situation.

In Esteli, to cite an example, Daniel Ortega's authority and political influence were key factors in preventing a confrontation between 400 armed men and the police after the first death and several injuries had already come about. His negotiating efforts avoided a bloodbath that would have stained not only the government, but all of Nicaragua.

We are facing an unprecedented crisis that is putting to the test not only the government's abilities, but also the patriotic spirit of the true leaders who have influence and prestige among the popular forces. The tanks and demagoguery of the microparties are useless weapons against a conflict that is deeply rooted in society.

The government has an obligation to provide a quick and effective socioeconomic response that will restore the faith of the rearmed groups. The only viable way to reinstate property rights, which are just as important for Mr. Gurdian of COSEP as they are for the former soldier in the Sandinist Popular Army and the demobilized peasant of the Resistance, is to honor the unfulfilled commitments, as promised, with a renewed sense of urgency. And if additional funds must be spent for this purpose, the government must not hesitate to do so. It is better to make an investment now for peace, calling upon the country to make an extraordinary sacrifice, than to prolong the national agony and risk an even worse rebellion.

* Agrarian Reform Supported

92CA0157C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
28 Apr 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Local Conflicts and Agrarian Reform"]

[Text] While the president denies that a widespread social explosion will occur in Nicaragua, a wave of spontaneous local conflicts has broken out in various parts of the country, each with its own characteristics. The series of takeovers by revueltos and rejuntes [newly formed alliances] in cities and towns in Esteli, Jinotega, and Chontales, and now by people demanding land in Chinandega, certainly bears no resemblance to the violence that is shaking Venezuela to its foundations, but

that does not make the social developments that have taken place in the last few days any less serious or disturbing.

Hunger, unemployment, and the lack of land and resources to work the land, are still the common denominator of the prolonged crisis that has plagued the same social actors: former members of the Resistance and the Sandinist Popular Army, alienated workers, and peasants.

But there are also specific factors that are aggravating the problem, such as the government's foot-dragging in fulfilling its commitments or, in other cases, its renegeing on its commitments, and the failure to publicize adequately the effort it is making to keep its promises.

More and more people are getting the impression that the government undertakes to meet demands it cannot meet or that it lacks the executive mechanisms for exercising its political will.

In view of the steady erosion of confidence, it is imperative that the vicious circle resulting from the failure to keep government promises—crisis, negotiation, crisis—be broken once and for all.

The administration has an obligation to give top priority to resolving these conflicts before they lead to violence, as happened in Esteli, with a tragic toll of one death and five injuries. The outbreak of violence, the crackdown, and the return to square one at the bargaining table—this merely confirms the belief that the government keeps its word only when pressure or force are brought to bear on it, and this belief does nothing for the stability of the country.

On the other hand, violent flare-ups such as the one now being seen in Chinandega, rooted in the historic demand for land and the lack of social assistance, reveal the need for a comprehensive response to the agrarian problem.

The recommendations of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on property ownership, which the government has pledged to implement, would solve only part of the problem by assuring peasant landowners who are in possession of their lands that their ownership is legally secure. But the landless peasants and the unemployed who have no job alternatives see the countryside as their only hope, and they will continue pressuring for land.

If the government wants to prevent new invasions of land, to strengthen the rule of law and stability in the countryside, the only alternative is to expand agrarian reform. As the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen demanded at its Second Congress, which ended this Sunday, "without expanding a comprehensive agrarian reform program, there will be no development in the countryside," nor will there be any economic growth.

* Obstacles to Democracy Discussed

92CA0156A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 May 92 p 10

[Commentary by Luis Sanchez Sancho]

[Text] It is said that in politics there are no surprises, only people who are surprised.

In fact, who would have imagined a few years ago, when the Sandinist revolution was at its climax, that the political events we are now witnessing would be taking place in Nicaragua?

Surely, the Sandinist leaders did not think, in what for them were their glorious times, that a few years later they would be compelled to govern together with members of the "bourgeoisie, betrayer of its country." Much less could they have thought that the Sandinist army would go around pinning medals even on the "enemies of humanity," and that the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] would be the guarantor of bourgeois democracy and of the restoration of capitalism.

And neither would those who fought against the revolutionary dictatorship have been able to imagine that one day the Sandinist military would be the custodian of the democracy that had been won.

There is no doubt that the process of our transition from dictatorship to freedom is a very complex one and as unpredictable as a boxful of surprises.

Each and every person would like the Nicaraguan process to advance according to his or her particular convictions and in accordance with his or her own interests. No one is satisfied with the prevailing situation in Nicaragua at this time.

The Sandinists, whose loss of absolute power has been a tremendous material and emotional calamity for them, are not satisfied. Acknowledging their adversaries' victory was neither to their liking nor did it tally with their ideology, and much less did giving up their control of the Executive power, of the National Assembly, and of the municipal governments. To protect their material, party, and personal interests, they carried out the famous pinata [the Sandinist government's appropriation of land and property after their election defeat] that, as some of them acknowledge, has now imparted to them a "coloring" they will never be able to erase.

Now the Sandinists are the opposition but are also co-governing. They organize revolts but are the masters of the police and the army. They back neoliberal economic policies, including going to Washington to ask the capitalist powers for help, but at the same time they instigate strikes and subversive acts that upset the government strategy and effectively bar any possibilities of recovery. Ideologically, they are sworn enemies of bourgeois freedoms, but their police agents and soldiers are having to protect the nascent capitalist order.

One or the other: Either the Sandinist policy line is double-acting and highly sophisticated, or its situation is one of dire distress. In spite of all their wealth and of the important levers of political power they still control, the Sandinists have no clear identity; they have lost faith in their revolutionary ideals. Their principles have been devalued, and they lack confidence in the future.

The situation of the democratic sectors is much better, although much of their electoral and political victory has been made to vanish as if by sleight of hand.

The UNO [National Opposition Union] program called upon a majority of the people to choose change, democracy, and freedom, instead of revolution, authoritarianism, and repression, but it has not been possible, or the will has been lacking, to correctly implement it.

The progress of democracy, the consolidation of freedom, the fostering of economic change, and the creation of a country governed by law, have thus far been a slow, tortuous, and strenuous journey. The right to live in peace and democracy, won after a prolonged civic and military struggle, is being beset by revolts, by renewed violence, and by the thousands of armed individuals who are being manipulated by the leaders of anarchy.

It is ironic that this hard-won right to democracy has now to be protected by those who were always the enemies of freedom, and who now, in the shadows or in the open, instigate and organize disorder and armed blackmail.

But there is no alternative to the development of democracy. It is impossible to turn back to Somoza-ism or Sandinism. The change is slow and strenuous, but it is inevitable and irreversible.

Those who have set themselves up as the guardians of democracy may well have done so not to protect it, but to prevent it from gaining strength or with the intention of slitting its throat when they deem that the propitious moment has come.

But in the long run they will be unable to prevent the consolidation of that democracy and Nicaragua's escape, once and for all, from the instability, helplessness, and frustration to which they are presently subjecting it.

Panama

Further on Reaction to President Bush's Visit

Students Hold Demonstration

PA0906152192 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio
in Spanish 1401 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Approximately 150 National Institute students have taken to the streets to protest, among other things, U.S. President Bush's visit to Panama on 11 June. The

students are at Martyrs Avenue [4th of July Avenue]. We have correspondent Carlos Rossman on the line. What is the situation?

[Rossman] The situation here at the National Institute is as follows: There is a peaceful demonstration. A large number of students from the National Institute have occupied a stretch of Martyrs Avenue between the Bridge of the Americas and National Avenue. Some students have their faces covered with T-shirts—following the style of Arab militants—and are shouting slogans against U.S. President Bush's visit to Panama on 11 June.

Thus far we have not seen members of the Public Force. We saw only a garbage can burning near J Street.

We interviewed a student leader who asked not to be identified.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified student] We are protesting the arrival of Mr. George Bush in Panama, mainly because he plans to address the Panamanian people knowing that we understand English. We also are protesting against the place where he will speak, which is Porras Park. I believe this is a provocation against the Panamanian people. As civic-minded, nationalist students who are not Gringo-lovers, we reject the military bases and everything that is foreign. We condemn the invasion in which many innocent people, including children, were killed. We also are protesting the fact that political groups in the National Institute are not allowed to speak at the civic ceremony. This was traditional in our school, but the director will not let us speak. We have a right to speak, as Panamanians and students. [end recording]

[Rossman] The student leader from the National Institute said that this first protest will last three hours. In other words, from now until approximately 1100 students will remain in Martyrs Avenue. Afterward, they will meet to determine future actions to protest the visit of U.S. President George Bush to Panama.

We tried to interview Professor Yolanda de Olivares, director of the National Institute, who preferred not to make any statement, however.

We also tried to obtain the opinion of some parents regarding the demonstration, but they also abstained from making any statement.

That is all I have to report.

Students Block Highway

PA0906163492 Panama City Radio KW Continente
in Spanish 1534 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Roberto Rolando Rodriguez]

[Text] A few minutes ago students from the Arts and Crafts School and the University of Panama who are Revolutionary Students Front [FER-29] militants,

blocked the Transisthmian Highway. The students are protesting the presence of U.S. President George Bush, scheduled to arrive in Panama on 11 June on an official visit, during which he will meet with President Guillermo Endara Galimany and deliver a speech to the Panamanian people.

Students have blocked the street with tree branches, rocks, and other objects, disrupting traffic. We have seen students covering their faces with scarves so as not to be identified.

On 9 June banners were posted at the University of Panama with slogans like: No more repression! People demand solutions! and Murderer George Bush, Leave! Other posters invite the Panamanian people to participate in a protest march on 10 June departing from 5 May Plaza... [pauses] or rather, which will end at 5 May Plaza.

At this time, the atmosphere at the University of Panama is not very calm because of demonstrations against the upcoming visit to Panama of U.S. President George Bush.

Positive, Negative Reactions

PA1006005192 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Preparations for U.S. President George Bush's arrival in our country on 11 June continue amid protests by student groups, relatives of people reported missing on 20 December 1989, and political prisoners' relatives. President Bush's visit has provoked both positive and negative reactions in the country. National Institute students closed down the Avenue of the Martyrs between 0700 and 1130 on 9 June.

[Begin National Institute student Sixto Castillo recording] We cannot understand why this man wants to come to Panama. He will reportedly go with his wife to Porras Park to celebrate I know not what. He will reportedly arrive to talk with the people, the same people whose assassination he ordered, just as he issued the orders to insult and malign our homeland. [end recording]

University students joined the demonstrations rejecting the U.S. President's visit, closing down the Transisthmian Highway.

Barely two days before the official visit, the Municipal Council approved a resolution to welcome President George Bush and demonstrated interest in sponsoring Bush's meeting with President Endara on behalf of Panamanian national interests.

On the afternoon of 9 June, members of the Association of Relatives of Invasion Casualties and political prisoners' relatives symbolically chained themselves to the U.S. Embassy gate, carrying signs and flags.

[Begin Isabel Corro recording] We must prove this nation has been attacked; that it is a nation that protests

with dignity, honor, and respect. We want to say that this is a nation with principles. We are people who have principles and morals and struggle with dignity. Panama has people who respect national integrity and expect to achieve self-determination as a sovereign nation. [end recording]

Mayor Mayin Correa gave her opinion on the protests.

[Begin recording] [Correa] He will be welcomed at the park by 5,000 children from elementary schools in the San Felipe area and small children wearing polleras. He will be going there because he wanted to talk with the Panamanian people about important topics. We learned this through the White House spokesman on 9 June.

[Reporter] Why do you think it is important or necessary for us to welcome President Bush like this?

[Correa] Well, President Bush is the president of a friendly nation; he is also president of the most powerful and important country in the world. We have been historically and commercially linked to this country since our birth as a republic. Thousands of Panamanians are linked with the U.S. people in one way or another. I went to the United States and requested asylum and a home when I lost mine, and I was granted asylum. [end recording]

Party Voices Opposition

PA0906180192 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Jun 92 p28

[Communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party National Executive Committee in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush will arrive in Panama City on 11 June on a stopover, which the government has turned into an official event.

The presence of the U.S. President—which under other circumstances would have been reason for rejoicing—is marred by the feeling of rejection by Panamanians, such as we, who remember with sadness and anger the sufferings sustained by our people as a result of the aggressive policy carried out by the Bush administration against Panama. This policy culminated with the bloody invasion by the U.S. Army against our people, which resulted in several thousand dead and injured—something the regime does not want to admit yet—and the subsequent occupation of our fatherland. These actions flagrantly violated international law, violated our sovereignty and independence, trampled on our fatherland, and deeply offended our national dignity.

The government installed by the United States in Panama after the invasion has failed to give effective solutions to the problems that our people face. It has become a regime of the minorities for minorities, it has

no social awareness, and it promotes policies and economic programs behind the people's backs. These policies and programs have resulted in greater unemployment, increased poverty, and a growing deterioration of the conditions of health, food, housing, and education of the vast majority. This regime has not even been able to solve the problems of the homeless people from the Martyr El Chorrillo Neighborhood—the main victims of the 20 December invasion—nor has it demanded compensation for the property damage.

The national reconciliation and reconstruction announced by the government turned out to be empty promises that have been replaced by the harsh reality of a policy of revenge and persecution against the political prisoners who courageously defended the fatherland.

When he leaves our country, President Bush should be convinced that, in spite of the invasion, in spite of the military occupation that still continues, and in spite of the attempts to turn us into a colony, there are the people of Panama who admit they have suffered a setback but are determined to continue the permanent struggle for our national independence, sovereignty, and self-determination.

In view of all of these considerations, the Democratic Revolutionary Party rejects the presence in our country of he who ordered a genocide in Panama, as well as the degradation of the adulators of the government protected by the farce of 11 June. [Signed] Democratic Revolutionary Party National Executive Committee.

Communist Party Opposes Visit

PA0906204292 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE
in Spanish 9 Jun 92 p 15

[Text] On 8 June, the People's Party [PP], a Marxist Leninist party, issued a communique rejecting the 11 June visit by U.S. President George Bush, who will make a five-hour stopover in Panama.

According to the communique signed by Carlos Francisco Changmarin, the political stopover by Bush in Panama is an outrageous expression of the U.S. arrogant policy of intervention in Latin America and the world.

"Bush is visiting the conquered Panama as the boss who won an unjust and beastly war, which was not in the interests of the majority of mankind—which seeks to suppress these savage methods of international relations," reads the communique.

Argentina

Russia's Rutskoy, Cavallo Hold News Conference

PY1006003292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1752 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jun (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem and his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, will sign a global agreement on the use of both countries' economic and productive possibilities within the next 60 days.

The agreement includes an agreement on mutual investment guarantees and the removal of double taxation, which will allow bilateral trade "to increase 10 times."

This was confirmed, during a joint news conference, by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, who also announced the formation of a joint working group to draw up financial mechanisms that will allow a greater commercial rapprochement between the two states.

For his part, Rutskoy announced: "The ruble's convertibility will take place before the end of the year." He emphasized that with this measure more investment will be achieved in his country. Rutskoy also raised the idea of increasing the number of Russian branch banks in Argentina.

Rutskoy added that in his country an effort is being made "to establish a legislative basis" that will allow guarantees for foreign investment in Russia.

The visitor said that during today's meeting with President Carlos Menem, he committed himself "to become engaged in the enhancement of relations between the two nations."

Rutskoy stressed that the spectrum of bilateral trade in the fields of energy, hydraulics, fishing and processing of fishery products, satellite communications, and military technology for peaceful uses, among other fields, "can be very broad."

The Russian vice president, who will stay in Argentina until 11 June, is scheduled to travel to Cordoba tomorrow, where he will tour various agro-industrial complexes.

* Diverse Reactions to Bishops' Document Reported

* Manzano's Remarks

92SM0411A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 May 92 p 3

[Text] Mendoza (Telam)—Minister of the Interior Jose Luis Manzano said the government did not take any steps "to try to tone down the document issued by the church," which the bishops released at the end of their first plenary session of the year. This document was described as "a strong appeal" to work "for our fellow human beings."

Manzano noted that the bishops' document "recognizes that Argentina has improved its situation, but it is still far from being the Argentina we would like, and there are conditions of poverty that must be ameliorated."

He said: "If the Church did not say these things, it would sometimes be very hard to find arguments to keep some of the wealthiest sectors from resisting change and to make them realize that much still remains to be done in the nation."

During his visit to this city, Manzano said: "The problem arises when a political twist is given to this, when in reality it is a strong appeal to do what we think God has given us a mandate to do: to work for our fellow human beings."

In speaking of the televised debate between his colleague, Minister of the Economy Cavallo, and UCD [Democratic Center Union] Deputy Alberto Albamonte, the minister said the legislator demonstrated "that he is a charlatan who specializes in insults." Cavallo added: "Albamonte is one of those who lives protected by legislative privilege to shield himself from legal action."

Retirees

Speaking of retirees, Manzano said that "a decision has been made that retirement benefits must be improved, but to do that we need to generate taxes to increase revenues." These taxes, he noted, "must be untouchable. Once before, we made the mistake of eliminating taxes that were used for retired people, and afterwards the money did not stretch far enough, so we had to reimpose the tax."

On another issue, Manzano said that "well-run, well-administered provinces are better partners for national undertakings than provinces with a large budget deficit."

As examples, he cited the provinces of San Luis, Mendoza, and La Pampa, which are well-run and which never receive recognition. In Mendoza, he mentioned the work done for the transfer of "Los Nihuales," the "Casa de Piedra" project in La Pampa, and the Rio Quinto projects in San Luis.

He added that Mendoza and Buenos Aires have been run with about 20 government employees for each 1,000 inhabitants. But there are other provinces that have had as many as 100 government employees for each 1,000 inhabitants.

On the traffic decree he noted that "17 Argentines die every day in traffic accidents; that is many more deaths than in the cholera epidemic." He indicated that "traffic education" will be introduced in primary and secondary schools starting next semester. "This will be required, and students will have to pass this subject in order to pass the year."

*** Gonzalez's Concordance**

92SM0411B Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 May 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Concordia, Entre Rios (NA)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez stated here that the concern expressed by Pope John Paul II and the bishops of Argentina about the social situation "is shared by the entire government." He felt that "Argentina's unjust and obsolete structures are to blame for the social tragedy faced by retired persons and the underclass.

The minister is visiting this city for the signing of documents to convert the Argentine-Uruguayan pass into a Border Center, culminating with the Salto Grande Dam project.

Gonzalez spoke of a number of issues related to the Armed Forces and Argentina's socioeconomic situation during a meeting with local reporters and reporters from the neighboring Uruguayan community of Salto.

The official emphasized that "the Armed Forces are well under the control of the democratic and republican system." He predicted that soon "agreements will be signed with international organizations like NASA and its European counterpart to conduct aerospace research projects."

The Situation of the Poorest People

When asked about the recent statement by the CEA [Argentine Episcopate Conference] concerning the condition of the poorest segments of society, Gonzalez noted that the terms they used coincide with "the views of any politician with social sensitivity and the clarity of vision to understand that the economy must be designed to serve man and not the reverse."

"So all our politicians and our government and from the Pope down to the lowliest member of the clergy, we are all seeking the common good, but we must do so through truth," he added.

He stated: "Our country has obsolete structures that are totally unjust. They have caused the social tragedy faced by retired people and the underclass, the social tragedy of backwardness, lack of opportunity, and serious unemployment."

He emphasized that the government wants to change those structures. "During this transition there will be pain, but as with the pain of childbirth, we may give birth to a new more equitable model," he said. [passage omitted]

*** UCR's Concurrence**

92SM0411C Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
2 May 92 p 3

[Text] While discussing the status of the regional economies, the leadership of the National Committee of the

UCR [Radical Civic Union] made use of recent statements by the Church to express its agreement with those concerns about the nation's social situation.

On the topic of the regional economies, the head of the UCR's National Committee, Mario Losada, said that several days ago a group of national legislators from the UCR met with the minister of the economy, Domingo Cavallo, to whom they described the situation now facing producers in the interior of Argentina.

Members of the leadership of the UCR National Committee met at party headquarters at Alsina 1786 in Buenos Aires to evaluate the progress of the political dialogue. They also considered social issues and the regional economies.

At the end of the meeting the head of the UCR's National Committee, Mario Losada, stated: "We share the concern of the Church that the government totally lacks any social policies toward our nation's most vulnerable sectors."

After expressing the UCR's solidarity with those sectors, Losada said: "This is not solidarity expressed merely in words; it is concrete, for we have decided to make it clear that we have fellow citizens who have been totally abandoned by the government's policy."

He then expressed his party's "concern" about the present situation of the regional economies, stating that "the productive interior of the nation is losing its population."

He reported that several days ago a group of national UCR legislators, led by the head of the UCR bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, Fernando de la Rúa, met with the minister of the economy, Domingo Cavallo, to whom they described the situation of producers in the interior.

Losada noted that Cavallo told the legislators that the government will introduce solutions for this sector, which the head of the UCR said he felt had been "destroyed."

Political Dialogue

On the progress of the political dialogue, Losada said that the radical leadership has analyzed the functioning of the various commissions. He said that in some cases, like the commission on social security, they have already reached conclusions, but in other cases—he cited the commission on education—"the commission has not even been formed yet."

*** Cavallo's Criticism**

92SM0411D Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
23 Apr 92 p 4

[Text] Minister of the Economy Domingo Cavallo responded to criticisms of the economic adjustment expressed by the Bishops of Neuquen and Mercedes, Jaime de Nevares and Emilio Ognenovich, respectively,

saying that they both "may know a great deal about the souls of the Argentine people, but they are poorly informed about the economic situation."

Cavallo defended the current economic plan and downplayed the bishops' statements that "in Argentina we have increasing poverty and fewer jobs."

Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano, while saying he did not want to engage in controversy, defended Cavallo's position and cited Argentina's entry in the Brady Plan as a highly positive event. He did indicate, though, "that the government does have one shortcoming. It has not communicated what this plan is very well."

Manzano felt that "there may be misperceptions, not just among some of the bishops, but also among a good part of the population, for we have poorly conveyed the information that the plan will improve the economic situation, rather than worsening it."

The Bishops

The Bishop of Mercedes, Emilio Ognenovich, spoke on the radio of his concerns about the "grave" situation that retired people are experiencing. He felt that "the costs of the adjustment should be shared more fairly; that is, the people who have the most should carry the greatest weight of this adjustment."

Bishop de Nevares said that "what we have so far seen in practice in the small towns, and certainly much more extensively in big cities, is a decline in job opportunities and an increase in poverty."

"That is a direct consequence either of the current economic plan or a result of unsuccessful former plans," said Bishop de Nevares. He noted that he was not in a position to determine which of these two alternatives is correct.

Even so, he said that "what I do see, and what Pope John Paul II and a number of Argentine bishops have said, is that the situation of the poor is growing worse."

Response

When asked about the criticisms expressed by representatives of the Church, Cavallo said that "the concern for retirees expressed by Bishop Ognenovich is the same concern felt by all our country; it is our concern, and I believe that I spoke clearly about this issue in my speech" on Tuesday.

About the statements made by the Bishop of Neuquen, the minister said: "I believe that Bishop de Nevares may know a great deal about the souls of the Argentine people, but it seems to me that he is not very well informed about the economic situation."

De Nevares also harshly criticized Argentina's entry in the Brady Plan, saying that the agreement with the World Bank "is going to drain away our blood, if we are lucky, just a few drops at a time."

"Despite some statistics, the proof is that we see more and more poverty and unemployment in Argentina," insisted the bishop. He warned of the possibility that "a sort of social explosion might take place."

Easing the Situation

About Argentina's joining the Brady Plan, Minister Manzano responded that "we have not managed to make it clear that this will ease Argentina's situation."

"It is all spelled out in the budget. There are no payments other than those already scheduled in the budget, and the increased tax revenues are going to be used for social spending.

"The president said today that it would be very easy for him to give the retirees nominal increases that would heat up inflation," he said, but he pointed out that "we have a policy on the part of the president and the government not to engage in demagoguery."

Bolivia

Spain's Gonzalez Begins 5-Day Official Visit

PY0906115892 La Paz Television Boliviana
Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived in La Paz this afternoon on a 5-day official visit. He will have a busy agenda in La Paz and in the interior of the country.

He arrived in El Alto Airport aboard a plane of the Spanish Air Force with an entourage of nearly 50 people, among them government officials, businessmen, and journalists.

He was welcomed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald Maclean, who greeted him on behalf of the Bolivian Government. Other high-ranking government officials were also at the airport. [passage omitted]

At 1735 the entourage arrived at Plaza Murillo, where President Paz Zamora received Gonzalez. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez introduced the members of his entourage to President Paz Zamora, who also introduced his cabinet and main government officials. [passage omitted]

After the protocol ceremony, President Paz Zamora bade farewell to Gonzalez at the front door of Government Palace. President Gonzalez and his entourage departed. He was greeted by the people along the streets. At 1815 Gonzalez arrived at the hotel where he will rest before beginning his busy agenda.

Paz, Gonzalez Hold News Conference

PY1006011092

[Editorial Report] La Paz Television Boliviana in Spanish at 1650 GMT on 9 Jun 92 monitored in progress

live coverage of a ceremony at Government House preceding an approximately 35-minute joint news conference by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Before starting the news conference, Felipe Gonzalez greets those present and explains that he has finally fulfilled his desire to visit Bolivia but that it is better to have come now that the Bolivian situation has improved and they can talk about concrete projects rather than explore possibilities. He also explains that the cooperation agreement with Bolivia is the most important one Spain has with this continent and it "is willing to renew this agreement for the 1993-94 period."

The conference starts with Gonzalez answering questions on security measures in Barcelona for the Olympic Games, saying everyone may rest assured about their safety.

In referring to a recent car bomb attack in Madrid, Gonzalez said: "They are not going to end the struggle until this phenomenon is wiped out completely." He also refers to the privatization process in Spain and agrees that comments on the curative characteristics of coca leaf in an agreement with Bolivia might be misinterpreted, but there might be some truth to this if the belief that coca leaf can cure has survived so many years.

A Spanish journalist asks Paz Zamora what Spain can do so that its European partners, especially, the international market, support Bolivia's hope that the World Health Organization review its concept about coca leaf. Paz Zamora answers that coca leaf no longer should only be confined to Bolivia, and mentions that in the last Vienna Convention it is stated that coca leaf can be chewed and coca tea consumed only in Bolivia. "Why should something that is good for Bolivians be bad for the rest of mankind?" Paz then says that "it is a matter of clearly establishing, at an international level, the basic difference between a completely legal product such as coca leaf and an absolutely illegal product such as cocaine used in the form of a narcotic. This would allow coca leaf to be treated like many other products that yield legal and illegal by-products, healthy and unhealthy by-products," and that coca leaf no longer would be judged only by its illegal by-product.

In response to a question on the role played by Spain between Latin America and Europe, Gonzalez explains that it is not in an uncomfortable position and that progress has been made "in understanding the Latin American situation and its current potential." As an example, he explains that the EC currently grants Central America more aid per capita than to the Lome Convention member countries.

Gonzalez then answers a question noting that Spain is in favor of the trading of coca leaf, once the ban established in the Geneva Convention is lifted as a result of scientific research showing that it has therapeutic properties.

After an approximately one-minute interruption of transmission, coverage is resumed with Gonzalez answering questions about a Spanish official posted in Bolivia.

Paz Zamora then answers a question by noting that there is no reason to fear that so-called "coca diplomacy" will result in the expansion of coca plantations. He notes that the "legal consumption of coca in the international market would be a way of efficiently contributing to the struggle against drug trafficking." He then says that Latin America tends to always regard itself as a poor continent and uses this as a political tool, arguing that "we cannot overcome this situation unless we receive foreign aid." He then thanks Gonzalez for mentioning that Spain will not stop investing in Latin America to invest in East Europe, which is a very tempting alternative.

As for our proposal of "ecological sovereignty" of the people, I still have not been able to discuss it with Felipe Gonzalez but will do so on our way to the Earth Summit. The concept of ecological sovereignty that surfaced in Bolivia has to do with the fact that "we all live in a single ecosystem, which generates interdependency between all countries of the world and a shared responsibility in preserving this single ecosystem." Anything an industrialized country does represents an ecological attack on our country and, therefore, "an attack on our ecological sovereignty." Also, "any future imposition on underdeveloped countries in the ecological field that may violate their right to development and well-being also will represent a sort of attack on what we have named ecological sovereignty."

Asked whether Spain acknowledges the ecological debt mentioned by Paz Zamora, Gonzalez says Spain has a shared responsibility regarding the deterioration of the world's environment. He notes, however, that each country's degree of responsibility is different. He then admits it is only natural that developing countries that, in their attempt to grow, are asked to respect nature should only react against the industrialized countries that did not do so when they were developing. Gonzalez then says he "believes that the environment's preservation goes hand in hand with a sustainable and balanced development of the countries. This is a new challenge never experienced in the past; there cannot be islands of prosperity and oceans of misery in the world."

The moderator then announces that the news conference is over due to a lack of time.

Brazil

IDB To Allocate \$2 Billion for Environment

PY0506153392 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Report by Mayr Lucy Vilela at Riocenter]

[Text] Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] President Enrique Iglesias reported today immediately following the opening of the UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED] that the IDB will probably allocate \$2 billion to Brazil next year.

From the estimated total of between \$1.7 and \$2 billion that the IDB will probably allocate to Brazil next year, approximately \$1 billion will be used to finance environmental projects, such as the one for the decontamination of the Guaiba River in Rio Grande Sul, the Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, and the Tiete River in Sao Paulo, in addition to the installation of basic sanitation services in Fortaleza.

The project for the decontamination of the Tiete River is at an advanced stage. Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho hopes to sign a contract on this project with the IDB in September. The rest of the money will be used to build another lane of the Fernao Dias Highway that connects Sao Paulo to Belo Horizonte, and for other industrial development projects.

Immediately following the opening of the UNCED, the IDB president handed over letters of agreement to the governors of the eight states which will benefit from the funds. The letters confirm the IDB plans to finance these projects.

Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira has emphasized the position of the IDB which, with the World Bank, is one of the largest sources of financing for Latin America.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Israel

*PY0606223292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 5 Jun 92 p 21*

[Text] Israeli Environmental Minister Uri Marinov [name and title as published] and Luis Alfredo Salomao, the Rio de Janeiro industry, commerce, science and technology secretary, on 4 June signed a technical cooperation agreement for exchanges between Israeli and Rio de Janeiro research institutes and businessmen. Salomao said that this agreement in principle does not include the transfer of resources but the creation of joint ventures.

Brazil and Israel shares common interests and negotiate on an equal footing, a fact that is very positive for the two countries.

Salomao said that similar accords reached with developed countries like the United States and Japan reveal the domination exerted on developing countries because of the lack of full transference of technology. The agreement, in principle, provides for the transfer of sophisticated technology in the biotechnology and advanced chemistry field, the use of recycled water in agriculture, and solar energy knowledge. Salomao says that Brazil can contribute with technologies in the biomass field.

Salomao said: Israel is making great efforts to reduce its energy dependency and, as was noted during the Ecotech

discussions, fuels like charcoal, firewood, and cane—elements that do not jeopardize the ozone layer—are expected to be used in the future.

Colombia

Congress Decorates Peru's Alan Garcia

*PA1006162092 Lima Global de Television
Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jun 92*

[Text] On 9 June, the Colombian Congress awarded former Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez, who arrived in Bogota a week ago under political asylum, the Grand Cross of Democracy.

The motion was unanimously approved by the 143 representatives from various political parties.

According to reports from Bogota, the Colombian Congress received Garcia with a warm ovation. Rodrigo Turbay, president of the Chamber of Representatives, decorated Garcia, noting his many efforts in defense of democracy.

Letter of Intent Signed on Farm Trade With PRC

*PA0906010792 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO
SIGLO in Spanish 3 Jun 92 p10-A*

[Text] Despite problems faced by Colombia's agriculturists, spokesmen for the sector, and the producers themselves, continue to insist upon a search for new alternatives to broaden their markets.

Another agricultural foreign trade alternative was presented the week of 24 May. The PRC disclosed a desire to increase its trade exchange with Colombia, focusing primarily on farm products.

A first letter of intent, signed by Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero and Liu Zhongyi of the PRC, demonstrates that bilateral trade may be stepped up during the medium term.

Among the Colombian sectors that may benefit from the increased exchange of trade and knowledge are those that produce fish, fruits, coffee, silk—the cultivation of which is increasing in the country—and flowers. China's experience in sericulture could greatly contribute to this industry, which—as has already been said—has recently gained considerable ground in Colombia.

Furthermore, the fishing sector—despite the country's huge existing potential—could also receive advice from one of the greatest experts on the topic and thereby develop a true industry.

Meanwhile, Colombia may use its experience in the production of fruit, flowers, and coffee to exchange knowledge and new technologies with the Chinese.

*** Plans for Prosecutor General's Office Discussed**

92SM0408A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO
in Spanish 25 Apr 92 p 3A

[Article by Edgar Torres: "The Headache of the Prosecutor General's Office; Desk Space for 9,000 Officials, Offices, and Powers"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] There will be an elite corps of prosecutors and investigators specialized in the narcotics traffic and in the techniques of front men, terrorism, and kidnapping. Units of the Prosecutor General's Office will be available 24 hours a day, and promotions will be made, depending on qualifications.

Gustavo de Greiff and his still small team of advisers work in the enormous "beehive" of the Prosecutor General's Office of Colombia. This is a place where 9,000 officials are located, where specific tasks are assigned, and decisions are made about where they sit and what their powers are.

The Prosecutor General's Office should begin to function on 1 July, and the criteria that control the organizational process include four principal points. The first two points involve the establishment of an elite corps of prosecutors. Decisions have already been made on the special requirements for prosecutors, technicians, and investigators, depending on the type of crime involved.

The remaining two points ensure the availability of the Prosecutor General's Office 24 hours a day. Subordinate offices will be organized in terms of whether the cases that they handle are argued before the Supreme Court, the other courts, or individual judges.

The establishment of an elite corps of prosecutors, which will come directly under the Office of the Prosecutor General, has already been taken care of.

In this respect De Greiff has explained: "The elite corps of prosecutors will handle the investigation and prosecution of high officials of the state. It will initiate and prosecute cases that the prosecutor general considers of special importance. It will be able to relieve any unit of the Prosecutor General's Office in a given case, on instructions from the prosecutor general."

A firm decision has also been made to structure the various units of the Prosecutor General's Office using the strict criteria of their specialization.

So from now on, the criminal investigations will inevitably involve a few of the same teams of prosecutors and units of the Judicial Police.

Units of the Prosecutor General's Office—made up of a coordinating prosecutor, a team of four or five assistant prosecutors, and a unit of Judicial Police that includes investigators and technicians—will be assigned, according to their actual qualifications, to the prosecution of a given kind of crime.

The initial assignment of personnel involves setting up units of the Prosecutor General's Office specialized in the following areas: narcotics trafficking and related crimes (the use of front men, the diversion of chemical substances, etc.), terrorism and kidnapping, murder and crimes against individuals, larceny and illegal acts against the property of others.

Ana Montes, the present chief of the team of unidentified judges and soon to be the national director of the Prosecutor General's Office, said in this connection: "The establishment of specific investigative units, depending on the criminal activity involved, will make it possible for the first time to develop a serious system of specialization among investigative bodies and prosecutors."

She explained: "In no other way can an investigative unit relate one fact to another or identify the methods used by a given criminal group."

Montes emphasized: "This initiative has no other purpose than to ensure that the Prosecutor General's Office works on the investigation of complete networks of criminals and not merely of individual criminals."

Other Steps

Additional specialized activity involves organizing the Prosecutor General's Office in terms of two levels. The first level will involve the court before which a criminal charge is handled (Supreme Court of Justice, the National Court, superior courts in a judicial district, or superior and criminal circuit courts). The second level depends on the stage of a given trial.

Ana Montes explained: "If you have a pool of prosecutors assigned to the investigation and trial of the crimes of narcotics trafficking and the use of front men, you should assign prosecutors within that 'department' to handle the preliminary investigation until the criminal is identified. Others should be assigned to handle the case from that point, until the person is formally charged."

On that organizational table, Prosecutor General's Office will also determine which prosecutors will appear before the Supreme Court of Justice, the National Court, superior courts in a judicial district, or superior and criminal circuit courts.

Prosecutors appearing before the National Court, the name by which the present Court of Public Order will be known after June 1992, will not be identified but will be assigned to the prosecution of the crimes of narcotics trafficking and terrorism, among other things.

These prosecutors and their colleagues who appear before the superior courts will be the next level in terms of the decisions made by the prosecutors called on to appear before regional courts (concerned with cases of public order) or superior and criminal circuit courts.

Web and Framework

De Greiff said: "A prosecutor can decide that there is sufficient grounds for bringing a criminal charge, and that action could be challenged. The prosecutors at the next higher level will decide on the matter as necessary."

De Greiff continued: "If the prosecutor involved holds to his decision, the case will go before the judge. If the contrary is true, the investigation will be continued."

Permanent teams of prosecutors, on duty 24 hours a day, will handle the task of ensuring that any kind of judicial proceeding can be carried out at any time.

In this respect Ana Montes said: "An investigative unit cannot wait until the next day to obtain an order to search a house or tap a telephone when it is clear that a crime is being committed."

Finally, the Prosecutor General's Office will assign technical laboratories and the Judicial Police to remove corpses from the scene of a suspected crime. The prosecutors will only act in these cases on the orders of a coordinating body.

Ana Montes said: "What we are seeing is that there is a large number of cases in which bodies need to be removed from the scene of a suspected crime, where technical expertise is required, but not the presence of a judge or prosecutor. It is necessary to ensure that the work of the Prosecutor General's Office is done in a rational and timely way."

Nevertheless, the organizational pattern indicated above does not go so far as to assign duties. The prosecutor and his agents have specific duties that flow from the provisions of the constitution and are focused on criminal prosecution.

Furthermore, the Prosecutor General's Office provided itself with its own organizational structure at the end of 1991 when the Special Legislative Commission, or "Little Congress," approved the corresponding basic legislation that established the office.

This basic structure involved establishing the position of deputy prosecutor general, the national directorates of prosecution, the Judicial Police, and the office of administration, as well as the Center of Information on Criminal Activities and a series of related offices, from providing protection and assistance to victims of crimes and eyewitnesses to extending judicial assistance to other countries on a reciprocal basis.

Now, however, De Greiff and his team must develop the fabric of the organization from its outline, and that is the job that is about to be undertaken.

The Prosecutor General's Office will include 3,214 officials from the National Directorate of Criminal Investigation and the Technical Corps of the Judicial Police, 820 prosecutors from the Office of the Prosecutor,

superior judges, superior customs judges, criminal circuit and public order judges, and 4,530 subordinate employees from the judicial offices.

Each one's place in the new organization, the offices from which he or she will operate, the powers that he or she will have, and even the very number of prosecuting attorneys' offices and investigators—all of these matters remain to be resolved.

Over the short term, the form of the internal and final structure of the Prosecutor General's Office will be based on an enormous inventory of human resources available to the judicial branch of the government.

In this connection, files on tape for each individual state their actual duties, the work really done, their organization and office, the last three positions held, the highest level of formal education achieved, experience, length of service, and place of residence.

The original prospect was that the appointment of officials "would relate to the maximum possible extent to the requirements of each position and would minimize the needs for transfers and training over the short term."

Difficulties to Be Overcome

A report prepared by Consultant and Management Services, the consortium that is helping the prosecutor general to get the new organization started, has emphasized the immediate problems that De Greiff will have to resolve.

Judicial Police—In the consultants' view, the principal problem relates to how the powers of the Judicial Police are to be organized.

The basic function of the Judicial Police is the responsibility of the prosecutor general. Accordingly, he will have to deal with the problem on an overall basis, including not only the Judicial Police of the Prosecutor General's Office but also police personnel assigned to other parts of his office with Judicial Police-type powers (National Police, DAS [Administrative Department of Security], Office of the Controller, Officer of the Prosecutor, Bureau of Customs, etc).

As of 1 July complaints will be presented to units of the Judicial Police. As a result, national coverage and effective coordination will be required, particularly with the National Police.

Office of Trusteeship—The consultants believe that the establishment of an Office of Trusteeship is an urgent necessity. This office will make it possible to carry out immediately and simultaneously the multiple activities involved in necessary investments.

Obviously, the work of the above office will have to be coordinated with functions carried out directly between the prosecutor general and the Minister of Finance in such a way that problems will not arise in connection with funds on deposit.

Offices—The problem of physical office space and its allocation should receive maximum attention. Given the size of the figures involved in everything concerning the Prosecutor General's Office (more than 1,000 offices, about 10,000 employees, etc), the work of identifying and organizing what is needed will be immense.

*** Insurgent Presence in Cundinamarca Discussed**

92SM0414A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO
in Spanish 11 May 92 p 12a

[Report by Miller Rubio: "Cundinamarca: Guerrillas Present in 30 Municipalities"]

[Text] Owing to its strategic location, proximity to the metropolis, and topography, Cundinamarca remains a corridor for guerrilla, paramilitary, and drug-trafficking groups.

This shocking fact is contained in a recent document from the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], which notes that so far in 1992 there has been an alarming movement of guerrilla groups into areas around Bogota as part of a plan to set up support networks and strengthen their urban commands.

Moreover, the report says, the paramilitary organizations that served drug trafficker Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha are being revived, having preserved their military apparatus intact after his death.

Criminals involved in cattle rustling, robbing estates, and kidnapping are also often part of this dynamic, and guerrilla involvement has been detected in these activities too.

The document, which the DAS displayed at a security summit in the Cundinamarca Governor's Office, contends that the subversive influence of the Guerrilla Coordinator can be found in 30 of the 114 municipalities in the department.

The 22d, 28th, 38th, and 60th fronts of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the "Oscar Fernando Serrano Rueda" regional division of the ELN [Army of National Liberation], and the "Luis Fernando Lalinde" column of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] are operating in the region.

But only the FARC are active in rural areas, having influence in the Provinces of Tequendama, Sumapaz, Guavio, and Rionegro, while the other two columns are operating in Bogota.

The report indicates that the FARC's 22d Front has established its main centers for hiding kidnap victims, mainly farmers and industrialists, in the towns of Viota, Puli, Beltran, El Nilo, and Chaguani in the Tequendama region.

The 22d Front has been active near Mesa, Anapoima, and Apulo. In recent days it raided San Joaquin and had

a battle with army troops in the town of Virgen, both of these sites less than 25 minutes from Mesa and Anapoima.

In other provinces, such as Sumapaz, the 27th Front has stepped up its activities in Fusagasuga, Gutierrez, Pasca, Cabrera, Venecia, Pandi, San Bernardo, Arbelaez, and San Juan de Sumapaz.

One of these actions took place this past 15 January when the FARC attacked an army patrol in Santa Rosa in the jurisdiction of San Juan de Sumapaz, killing two soldiers.

In this region, the document says, "there have arisen groups of common criminals who work together with the guerrillas on various forms of extortion."

In addition, members of this front make sporadic moves to kidnap and blackmail landowners in the San Javier and San Joaquin zone and in rural areas in the municipalities of Anapoima and La Mesa.

The FARC also have a presence, however, in other eastern regions such as the municipalities of Medina and Paratebueno, where paramilitary groups have influence as well.

"This year in Caqueza, the FARC have been present near a place called Seminario, where on 23 January they held up a car of Thomas de La Rue," said an official with the mayor's office of that town.

Moreover, according to the DAS, the private justice groups funded initially by drug-trafficking money have returned to action in the Rionegro region (Caparrapi, Guadas, Guayabal de Siquima, Paima, and Yacopi).

Cesar Augusto Mendez Forero, the mayor of Guadas, says, however, that "we are unaware of the presence of self-defense groups. What we do know is that the FARC used to be in Carbonera, Chipauta, San Jose, Salsipuedes, and Guaduro."

The "Milicias"

During the past six months the guerrilla groups have made an effort to consolidate a support network extending from urban centers to the fronts operating in the countryside.

Reports indicate that the FARC have pursued this strategy in Usme, Subachoque, Choachi, Pasca, and Guayabetal, where they are seeking to establish groups of "Bolívar militias."

The 60th FARC Front is in Bogota, the DAS says, where it runs an intelligence network. Its operations are supported by the "Oscar Fernando Serrano Rueda" Command of the ELN, which has influence in surrounding municipalities, and the "Luis Fernando Lalinde" Front, whose battlegrounds are secondary schools and public universities.

This year the FARC have directed their efforts against banks and public-service vehicles.

Last 25 February, members of an urban command set off two bombs at the Popular and Colombia banks. One month before, on 22 January, members of the same group set fire to three executive coaches in the downtown area of the city.

The main focus of activity of the urban commands and the "militias" has been Ciudad Bolivar, where there are some 100 substandard settlements and where living conditions are appalling.

"Los Macetos"

In response to the guerrilla actions, mainly in the Province of Rionegro, a dangerous intensification of operations by paramilitary groups has been detected.

Over the past two weeks the Judicial and Investigative Police Directorate managed to locate Jaime Eduardo Rueda Rocha, who used to control 150 men in the Rionegro region.

Rueda, who worked for "El Mexicano" in the 1980's, had a presence with his men in 11 municipalities in the department.

"The statistics on homicides classified as 'unidentified,' says the report, "are worrisome, to which we can add that in most cases the perpetrators are not known; this indicates the high degree of impunity that prevails in the region."

The "Los Macetos" group has been detected moving into towns like Pacho, La Palma, El Penon, Yacopi, and Paime.

[Box, p 12A]

The Figures

So far in 1992 there have been 11 attacks on police patrols, 10 terrorist acts against government facilities, five harassments, two ambushes, and three attacks in urban centers.

Guerrilla actions have killed 15 civilians, while the insurgents have slain 15 members of the Armed Forces.

As for kidnappings, the department has recorded 25 to date, most attributable to the FARC and common criminals. The statistics also show that there have been 18 bank holdups and 25 terrorist acts (seven by subversives and 18 by unknown individuals).

Moreover, the records show that this year 300,000 poppy plants have been destroyed in operations designed to counter the stepped up growing of this plant, which has been detected in eight regions of the department.

* Agriculture Minister Discusses Current Crisis

92SM0415A Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish
12 May 92 pp 194-195

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero by unidentified SEMANA staff member; place and date not given]

[Text] [SEMANA] It is said that the agricultural sector is dead. How much truth is there in that statement?

[Lopez Caballero] It is not dead, but it certainly has been hurt.

[SEMANA] But you and the government have limited yourselves to saying that it is not your fault, but rather that of world economic phenomena and nature. That is not enough for a Colombian farmer.

[Lopez Caballero] The fact that such an answer is not enough does not mean that it is not correct. Agriculture is going through the worst crisis of the last quarter of a century. Everything bad has happened at the same time: the worst drought in recent history, increasingly intense guerrilla activity, and international prices for our products at their lowest levels. Think of the fact that the international prices for coffee, cotton, bananas, cacao, and sugar are down at the bottom. And this is not just happening in Colombia, but on the commodity exchanges in New York and throughout the world.

[SEMANA] But the government cannot just explain the problem. The reason that people elected it to office was to solve this difficulty.

[Lopez Caballero] Look, you have to look at things in perspective. Colombian agriculture has recently been affected by two things. On the one hand, there are climatic factors and cycles in the international economy. On the other hand, there are some secondary effects of macroeconomic policy. At this time the two aspects adversely affect the Colombian farmer, and it is necessary to take action. We cannot do anything about the weather and the cycles of the international economy, so our efforts must be concentrated on doing something in the field of macroeconomic policy.

[SEMANA] Are you saying that the government has been mistaken?

[Lopez Caballero] No. I am not saying that the government may have been mistaken but rather that circumstances have changed and policies should evolve to adjust themselves to new realities.

[SEMANA] Specifically, what has changed?

[Lopez Caballero] The entire world and Latin America were all moving in the direction of deregulation and the liberalization of the economy as a preliminary to the establishment of large economic blocs. However, the world recession has been so serious that it has removed the dynamism from these processes.

[SEMANA] Does that mean that we should step back from the policy of openness?

[Lopez Caballero] No. However, it is certainly necessary to make adjustments. We must stop for a time along the road to adapt ourselves to the new realities, particularly the world recession, which is causing political instability everywhere. This does not involve drastic changes in the policy of openness but specific economic adjustments to respond to the situation which we are going through.

[SEMANA] What kind of adjustments?

[Lopez Caballero] Revaluation, for example. U.S. dollars have flowed back into Colombia to such an extent that we must recognize that they have overwhelmed us. Not only is this situation harmful to exporters, but it can become a social problem, to the extent that growers stop planting export products and workers in the agricultural sector are left without jobs.

[SEMANA] Then what is the solution?

[Lopez Caballero] We must identify corrective measures, although this could imply abandoning economic orthodoxy in response to the exceptional situation that we are going through.

[SEMANA] Be more specific.

[Lopez Caballero] I cannot be specific because the decision is not up to me. It is up to the government's economic team. What I can be very specific about is to point out that the Ministry of Agriculture thinks that we cannot put off adopting corrective measures that would help to reactivate the agricultural export economy of the country.

[SEMANA] Do you think that this would ease the situation?

[Lopez Caballero] No. It would not be enough. We must consider other matters. We must return to effective measures that already exist but only on paper. For example, as of today our defenses against subsidized imports frequently are not really effective because they operate after the fact. When a complaint is made, the foreign product has already entered the country, and the harm has already been done.

[SEMANA] You seem to be attacking the ministers of finance and foreign trade.

[Lopez Caballero] On the contrary. The problem facing the agricultural sector is so serious that it is not a problem affecting one ministry, but rather the whole economic team. I have a responsibility for contributing to the search for solutions, although these are not necessarily the job of the Ministry of Agriculture. Both of the other ministers and I agree that the government must act rapidly and correctly. Therefore, we have set up inter-ministerial working groups this week.

[SEMANA] Then does not all of this look like a basic change in policy—not only your policy but that of the whole government?

[Lopez Caballero] I will explain to you how I see things. The government of President Gaviria has the right objective, that is, modernizing the Colombian economy and incorporating Colombia into the world. However, the continuation of the world recession and the drought has generated an exceptional crisis situation that requires adjustments in macroeconomic policy. This does not involve changing direction. On the contrary, the adjustments are necessary so that we do not die enroute. Someday it will have to rain. Someday the U.S. economy will have to turn around. And someday the prices of our export products, such as coffee, cotton, bananas, and sugar, will return to normal levels. We simply have to take transitional action to deal with this storm. If we leave everything in the hands of market forces, it is possible that we will ultimately reach the same point. However, the social cost could be enormous.

[SEMANA] And what about the Agrarian Bank? According to its critics, it is facing ruin.

[Lopez Caballero] The Agrarian Bank has turned into a bottomless pit in the sense that the state was always dipping its hands into the bank's pocket. Thus, 132 billion Colombian pesos have been lost, and things cannot continue in this way. Costs have to be reduced by doing two things: closing down some branches and eliminating activities that lose money, which have become a kind of hemorrhage.

[SEMANA] That is looking at things from a broad point of view. However, the more specific aspect is that a few villages that have no other banks are going to be left with nothing.

[Lopez Caballero] That is not true. Because of the need to rationalize a service, some people are acting as if this is a panic situation. There will be some cases of closing some functions, depending on the circumstances. However, I can guarantee that under no circumstances are we going to deprive a village of its bank if this is the only source of credit. I give you my word on that.

[SEMANA] However, we are just talking about putting out fires. Is there no basic solution for the problems of the agricultural sector in Colombia so that we will not have this kind of crisis every four years?

[Lopez Caballero] Water. The only long-term solution is more water. Therefore, the whole emphasis in the work of the Ministry of Agriculture involves promoting the development of irrigation districts. Consider the fact that in the Cauca Valley, despite the drought, there has been no economic disaster because of the irrigation systems. If there had been adequate irrigation systems in the Cesar area, there would not have been a cotton crisis.

*** Incora Official on Obstacles to Agrarian Reform**

92SM0413A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR
in Spanish 11 May 92 p 11A

[Article by Jaime Fernandez Molano]

[Text] At almost exactly midday, after a delay of several hours, the titles to 190,000 hectares of land in the Departments of Meta, Guaviare, Guainia, Vaupes, and Vichada, were handed over to peasants in a ceremony at Granada (Meta).

In the ceremony, the head of Incora [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform], Fernando Corrales Cruz, blamed drug trafficking as the main obstacle to carrying out agrarian reform programs.

He explained that, besides spreading terror in rural areas, the utilization of the fields for illegal purposes has caused the price of land to skyrocket, creating a false bonanza and preventing agencies such as Incora from acquiring land at normal prices in areas where the simple peasant needs land for subsistence.

He also said that the Institute's budgetary limitations comprise another basic factor that prevents grand solutions for agrarian reform.

The present instance was cited as an example, in which it was hoped to acquire 120,000 hectares of land but only 34 billion pesos were available, an insufficient amount for the purpose.

The ceremony was attended by the general manager of Incora, the regional manager, Alfonso Hurtado Gomez, the mayor and mayor-elect of Granada, and representatives of ANUC [National Association of Rural Land Users], peasant women, and the departmental government.

Corrales Cruz said that one of the Institute's principal objectives is to survey and issue titles to lands in the indigenous reservations as a way of benefitting and protecting the indigenous people from the implacable devastation they have been suffering at the hands of the great landowners.

Agrarian Fund

He also announced the formation of the Agrarian Guarantees Fund, which will be in operation in less than a month and have an initial capital of 7 billion pesos from the DRI [Integrated Rural Development Program], the PNR [National Rehabilitation Plan], and Incora, for the purpose of guaranteeing direct and immediate credits to peasants for the purchase of needed land or livestock.

"We are in the process of constituting a bank for leasing agricultural machinery, by agreement with the DRI", Corrales Cruz added.

The initial budget for the bank is projected at 1.2 billion pesos, 200 million of which will be allocated to Meta.

The speeches by the indigenous persons and the peasant women dealt with their concern over the future of Incora, in view of the possibility of its disappearance as the only state agency that can look after the peasant's basic need: the land.

According to Valentin Vargas, representative of ANUC, "plans exist to provide social housing in the cities, but this problem is not taken account in rural areas. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the government to establish integral farms and also land banks, so that Incora can lease land to the peasants, who have nothing to work with but their hands".

Peru

Foreign Minister De La Puente Interviewed

PA0606174892 Lima Radio Programas del Peru
Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 6 Jun 92

[Studio interview with Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, on the "Enfoque de los Sabados" show by host Dennis Vargas Marin and panelists Humberto Jara, editor of the daily EXPRESO, and Francisco Yrigoyen Praelli, professor of constitutional law—live]

[Text] [Vargas] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Two months ago President Alberto Fujimori decided to suspend several important articles of the Constitution in order to propose a thorough reorganization of the legislative and judicial branches. Many events have taken place since last 5 April, but we are concerned about what lies ahead. We want to look forward to the future, not back to the past. We are very interested in learning what lies ahead for Peru and the Peruvians.

As we all know, there is a timetable for returning to democratic institutionalism, to constitutionality, to a state of law in our country. One of the most important announcements made by the president of the Republic during the week of 31 May was that elections for the constituent congress will be held on 18 October 1992. That is the first great step in recovering full democracy in our country.

However, that is not all. We want to know what steps will be taken before 18 October? How will we all understand the need to participate in the scheduled events so that on 18 October—or on another date, because the church has requested that the date be changed—we will all know what tasks and duties lie ahead. That is in reference to the constituent congress.

There is also a great dialogue between the government and opposition political forces. The dialogue has also been promoted by the OAS; not as a mediator, but as a sponsor. It will continue watching to see how the dialogue between the representatives of the government and the political opposition unfolds. We are very interested

in that topic. What mechanisms will be used to develop the dialogue, who will participate in the dialogue, and at what level will it be held?

Likewise, we want to know what Peru's proposals and positions will be at the environmental summit being held this week in Rio de Janeiro.

We also have, dear listeners, another very interesting topic that comes up every day. We are referring to the subversive actions that continue to kill people in Peru. We would also like some answers to that.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have the great opportunity today to present Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. We thank him in advance for allowing us to speak with him, as he is a man who speaks sincerely. Dr. De la Puente, good morning and welcome to the program.

[De la Puente] Good morning, Dennis Vargas.

[Vargas] We are very interested in speaking with you today. Listeners, our panelists today are: Humberto Jara, editor of the daily EXPRESO, and Francisco Yrigoyen Praelli, university professor of constitutional law. Ladies and gentlemen, we begin our program by asking a question we believe should be first because it is the most important: Dr. De la Puente Raygada, the terrorist actions, the subversive actions, the violence over the week of 31 May, have been terrible. A member of the communications media, Frecuencia Television Channel 2, was attacked. It is not just that the television channel was the target, but rather that the subversive actions continue. It seems as if the actions have increased since 5 April, even though the government insisted they would decrease. That has not been the case. What is happening, Mr. President of the Council of Minister? What does the government think about all this?

[De la Puente] For a long time, the subversive problem was handled in Lima as a distant one. If we do a historical analysis of the subversive movement in Peru, we will note that as a result of the centralization of those activities in Ayacucho and surrounding areas, reports coming from those areas had little impact on the Lima public. It was seen as a remote problem. However, as the problem came closer to the capital, the first signs of concern were noted. The population began to be alarmed by the problem. That was a consequence of the subversives' migration to the capital. Reports on subversive activities in the provinces were reduced while reports on actions carried out in Lima increased in an alarming and worrisome way. A problem that had been seen as distant and therefore not requiring our attention as citizens is now a tangible reality in Lima. We must also mention the spectacular nature of the actions—which are really detestable—such as the attack on Channel 2, which we all regret. We must also note the previous explosions that have damaged many buildings in Lima, along with the deplorable loss of lives.

The truth is that, in responding to those actions, so far citizens have only expressed their indignation and regret. They ask: What does the state do to protect society? What do the Armed Forces and the National Police do to protect society? However, with few exceptions, we do not hear them asking themselves: What are we doing to help the state defend us?

I cannot see how the disappearance of a vehicle belonging to an armed institution does not trigger a general alert.

[Vargas] That is what we cannot understand, Mr. Minister, it is incredible.

[De la Puente] We cannot see how a bomb can be left somewhere and calls are received after the explosion, after the fact, after the incident that affects society's normal life. Citizens are not actively participating in alerting society. It is not a matter of fighting or confronting anyone, because the methods used are totally different. A human being who is part of a family and who has no means of self-defense, who loves peace—because Peruvians are peace-loving people—cannot face a vandalistic act involving 600 kg of dynamite. However, he can help by sounding the alert, which would be the equivalent to what in the past was the role of the watchmen. He can help by showing solidarity with the people who asked the invader arriving in their town to extend his hand because he could be hiding a stone. The act of shaking hands was like a safe-conduct measure: People in the area received foreigners by asking them to shake hands in order to make sure they were not hiding anything. That is what is happening in Peru after many centuries.

[Vargas] In other words, you are saying that the people are still unaware of the meaning of subversive actions and the dangers they pose in our country. We should realize we are all affected and everyone should participate? Is that what you mean?

[De la Puente] That is right. You see, I have always made an analysis that may seem somewhat folkloric and perhaps not very appropriate for the present situation. I base my analysis on those famous westerns: the famous North American western frontier and how the west was won. There, two completely different forces faced off: the redskins and the palefaces. We knew exactly how to tell them apart. In Peru there are not any redskins or palefaces. Here there are 22 million people totally identified with the cosmic race that is Peru. The only way to participate is by reporting and warning. Anyone living in a community who notice someone who does not belong there, someone who is causing concern in the community, should report it. Not reporting such things is almost like conspiring in the events that are about to occur and their consequences.

It is the people who must participate. The idea is not to increase the Armed Forces or the National Police's war materiel, because we are not talking about genocide or human rights violations. That is the social right of a

civilized nation that wants to live as a civilized society; therefore, society must defend itself in order to survive.

[Vargas] A question from Humberto Jara.

[Jara] Good morning, Mr. Minister. What you are saying is cause for concern. When you ask people to participate in the way you have described, the leaders must first demonstrate some sort of effectiveness and make clear official statements. Otherwise, the Peruvian Government is asking the people to do what it cannot do for them. Not every citizen you ask to become a lookout or every citizen who is on alert has the same authority as the Army and other peacekeeping forces to close off streets and protect themselves at night until daylight returns. That means they will not fulfill their patrol duty as frontline lookouts with the proper tools for the task. We are asking families to fulfill that role while the Army and the others lock themselves away.

Second, I do not understand how you will manage to offer the people real participation, get them to want to participate, and make them feel supported in such a task when we have an interior minister who makes statements that truly demand our attention. This is a person who, faced with the destruction of Frecuencia 2 Television and many other recent events, supports the theory of another subversive group, stating that it is the retreat of Shining Path, which is the victim of persecution, and so on. I believe that if the government does not present clear ideas on the issue, it cannot request that kind of participation from the people.

[De la Puente] It is obvious that following an event such as this, one that really affects the social life of the nation, a general revision must be made. It is not a matter of requesting and not acting. I believe that the call I am making here is made in all sincerity. We are not all to blame here. I would be unfair to suggest that the innocent people who have put their personal lives aside to do their duty have some measure of guilt. We would be on the wrong track if my tone or message were interpreted to mean such a thing.

I realize that the proposal must be a sort of reconsideration by all of us; not only by the people, but by the organizations. We must all face the facts. If there were hiding—as you have said—instead of patrolling or surveilling, then I believe we would have to review all of those proposals. You and the people must be aware that until now, the targets of the attacks primarily have been organizations, installations, and buildings belonging to the Armed Forces and the National Police. There is, then, a sense of self-preservation. That self-preservation has left other areas unprotected, whereas they could be protected perfectly well if there were a rational system for distributing the resources. Furthermore, there are no resources. There are no resources now, but they can be found. Just as the people participate with whatever little resources they have, so the Armed Forces and police must participate with whatever they have.

This is a national crusade. It is a national crusade for the right to survive as a civilized society. No efforts, support, or cooperation from anyone can be deemed to little, because we are struggling to survive. It is important for this to be in the hearts and souls of every Peruvian, because we all have the right and the duty to participate so our society survives.

We should not exaggerate the very fact that an attack may jeopardize the civilized life of the country. But this is some kind of a movement. If we do not stop it, if we do not come forward, and if we do not demonstrate that we are organized as a strong society—in which everyone has the right to survival—we will allow such actions to continue. We simply regret, deplore, and become angry about these incidents, but we do not organize ourselves. I think this is a national crusade not against, but for, the defense of civilized life in our country.

[Vargas] Francisco Yrigoyen Praelli will now take the floor. Good morning, Francisco.

[Yrigoyen] Good morning, Mr. Minister. With your permission, I would like to move onto another topic. Taking advantage of your presence, I would like you to clarify some technical aspects that sometimes confuse people. I am referring in particular to the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], because different things have been said. Therefore, I think this is a good opportunity to define the concepts. It was a positive attitude on the part of the current government to modify its initial plan to hold a popular election and instead establish a mechanism that will allow the people to elect the individuals who will revise and reform the Constitution. That was a very healthy measure. However, it has been said that the CCD will reform the Constitution, legislate, and exercise control. On that note, I would like you to ask you for two clarifications, because many things have been said. For instance, I became concerned after hearing that some political sectors close to the regime and some military sectors dislike the idea of the CCD, because they cannot accept the fact that the executive branch will no longer legislate after the installation of the Congress.

Following the installation of the CCD, will the executive branch stop issuing decrees? Will it share this function with the new Congress?

Secondly, what will be the term for the CCD to fulfill its mission? Has a specific term been established, or will that Congress operate for the rest of the presidential term?

[De la Puente] When President Fujimori went to the Bahamas and established what has been called the Bahamas commitment, he explained that immediately—this is the word he used—after returning to Peru, he will convene a CCD. That is perhaps the final part of the first period. Prior to that, a foreign ministers' meeting took place in Washington to review the case of Peru. They held an emergency meeting, following the measures adopted on 5 April. In that foreign ministers' ad hoc

meeting, which was special for the case of Peru and its return to democracy, it was established in Paragraph 6 that an OAS mission will come to Peru to promote the talks between the parties, namely the government, opposition political forces, and other political sectors. That should be mentioned, because Paragraph 6 of Resolution 192 issued in Washington established the characteristics of the OAS mission.

In addition, Peru is urged to return promptly to constitutional legitimacy. The third point is to achieve as soon as possible a return to the balance of powers. In other words, there are three basic points that make up the decision of all the foreign ministries of the hemisphere. That mission, led by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Gros Espiell and the OAS secretary general, has a special task. Its task is to travel to Peru to promote dialogue, to achieve a return to constitutional legitimacy, and to recover the balance of powers.

The commitment made in the Bahamas by President Fujimori contemplates those three aspects. The first mission of Foreign Minister Gros Espiell and the OAS secretary general establishes contacts with all the political forces and the government. The second mission comes to support the first commission and includes prestigious foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers from brotherly countries.

Then, at the request of the Peruvian Government, there is a third visit by just Gros Espiell to try to find a formula to be presented at the Bahamas meeting. Finally, there is a fourth mission—once again led by Foreign Minister Gros Espiell and the secretary general—to bring the consensus of the Bahamas meeting contained in Resolution 292 of the foreign ministers' meeting.

What does Resolution 292 say? It says that a new deadline has been granted. In other words, the recommendations of the first mission are still valid. The Bahamas commitment establishes that the organization will be observing the commitment made by the president to convoke a congress. There is optimism that the commitment will be observed. That is basic.

As soon as the president returns, he convokes the CCD—not a Constituent Assembly, which was the first petition of the Bahamas meeting. The first resolution issued at the Bahamas talked about installing a Constituent Assembly whose only mission was to draft the Constitution, approve it, and request its promulgation.

President Fujimori's government goes a little beyond that. Instead of convoking a Constituent Assembly strictly for the purpose of drafting and approving a constitution, he convokes a CCD. The purpose of the CCD is to legislate and oversee. It is the check and balance [previous three words in English] as it is called in the Anglo-Saxon legislative bodies.

In answer to your question, what the president has done is to convoke a CCD, initially planned to be installed by 18 October. The CCD will reestablish the balance of

powers. Therefore, the congress will be empowered to legislate and oversee the government's actions.

[Yrigoyen] Pardon me, I just want to clarify something. Does that mean that once the CCD is installed, the executive branch will no longer issue decrees?

[De la Puente] That will be automatic once the congress is installed.

[Yrigoyen] That means that only the congress will be legislating?

[De la Puente] Only the constituent congress will be legislating. The government—through the executive branch—will only issue executive decrees, as it has done before.

[Yrigoyen] I want to bring up a second point. How about the term? Once the constituent congress concludes its work, will there be general parliamentary elections or can the CCD remain as such as the legislative branch for the rest of the term?

[De la Puente] I think the second alternative would be the most advisable one. Otherwise, we would have to make several calls for elections, and that would not be worthwhile. First, we would have one election in October, then another one for the referendum after the approval of the constitution, then another election, and then the general elections. I do not think it would make much sense.

That will be evaluated once we receive the technical assistance Peru has formally requested as specified in Paragraph 3 of Resolution 92 (number as heard), which urges the OAS to offer and grant the technical and technological support that the Government of Peru formally requests to strengthen the electoral system. That is the result of an evaluation of the process.

At this time, we are at the first stage of the evaluation. The congress has been convoked, the OAS technical assistance missions are due to arrive, and we have the best plans for projecting what is most advisable for the country in this electoral process.

[Vargas] Mr. Minister: We will continue with details that must be clarified. We will put the puzzle together, as my good friend Juan Paredes Castro says, so that the Peruvian people can be sure of what they are going to do, particularly concerning actions that will be carried out from now until 18 October. This week there has been growing concern because in a statement for Radio Programas del Peru, Monsignor Jose Dammert, president of the Episcopal Conference, mentioned the need to change the date of the elections as it coincides with the initial departure of the procession of the Lord of Miracles. He announced he would travel to Lima to discuss the matter with you or with the president of the republic to see if it is possible to change the election day to the previous or following Sunday. We would like to know the government's opinion about that, as well as your opinion as

president of the Council of Ministers. We have our own opinion, which we can share with you now.

[De la Puente] When the mission headed by Gros Espiell arrived here, the latest mission after the Bahamas meeting...

[Vargas, interrupting] Is Gros involved in it too?

[De la Puente] No, no, no. I am telling you what has happened in an historical sequence in order to put the puzzle together. Otherwise, it would be hard to explain or seem illogical.

[Vargas] I see. That is perfect.

[De la Puente] The Bahamas commitment, established and formalized by President Fujimori in Nassau, mentioned the return to institutional legitimacy within a period of five months. In other words, the call for the CCD that the president announced in Nassau established a five-month deadline. The president spoke at the OAS forum on 17 May, and five months after that date, which is the deadline, will be 17 October. Traditionally and according to electoral regulations, general elections must take place on a Sunday. Consequently, the Sunday closest to the deadline was 18 October. That is why that date was chosen, in strict compliance with the Bahamas commitment.

[Vargas] From the standpoint of strict compliance.

[De la Puente] I must honestly say that perhaps it would have been wise if some of the advisers or ministers, including me, would have reminded the president that the traditional and centenary Procession of the Lord of Miracles coincided with that date.

[Vargas, interrupting] We recognize your honesty. Very few men [words indistinct].

[De la Puente] You must realize that the government was under pressure as it had to comply with international commitments. The president had the courage, and I would say the heroism—to go to an international forum to explain the government's position and to formally announce the government's commitment to return to institutional legitimacy. At that time we were thinking about the Bahamas commitment and did not anticipate verifying the date for the elections. I am being sincere.

[Vargas] In other words, it was a slip.

[De la Puente] It was not an oversight. The date was established but we were unaware that it could hurt or affect profound religious celebrations that we all share and that Peru has traditionally observed as one of the most important factors of our national reality.

[Vargas] There is a solution to that. Why should elections have to take place on a Sunday? We know of countries where elections have been held in mid-week, for example the famous Tuesdays of U.S. primary elections. Why

should elections necessarily be held on a Sunday and not the previous Saturday in order to comply with the commitment?

[De la Puente] We have been discussing the matter at the Council of Ministers. The president will make an announcement to the country soon in that regard.

[Vargas] There are quite a few people who say that to resolve that problem one only has to find out the route that will be followed during the procession of the Lord of Miracles, determine the number of voting tables that will be installed, and determine if that would affect [words indistinct]. I do not think that would be advisable.

[De la Puente] No, that is not right. The grandiosity and solemnity of such an important act as elections for the CCD cannot clash with the traditional and centenary observation of a religious celebration.

[Vargas] Security aspects must also be considered.

[De la Puente] Yes. Besides, we do not have to be so strict with procedures. Fortunately, there is the legal possibility of not having made the formal call officially. The president is evaluating the situation and will make the pertinent announcement in due time. However, I ask you to leave it in the president's hands after the evaluation is made by the Council of Ministers.

[Vargas] Before giving the opportunity to Humberto Jara, I have another question. Is it necessary to modify the electoral law, or will we continue to operate under the same law?

[De la Puente] We must be honest. I believe we have lived in an unfavorable climate, and it would not be good to begin the dialogue immediately. The application of Paragraph 6 of Resolution 192—which calls for promoting the dialogue between the government and the political forces of the opposition and the other political groups—has been carried out as a cause or a law motif [as heard] of the political parties so it will be complied with in a strict, imperative, and categorical manner. I understand that dialogue—and without going into the meaning of the term.... [pauses] Two persons holding a dialogue are two persons who understand each other, and a discussion is two persons who listen to each other.... [pauses] That means reaching an agreement at the beginning to speak about something specific. I said in an interview I granted to the national media that it would not be proper for the representatives or spokesmen of the political parties and for the government to sit down together to talk about the history of Peru. That would not make sense. We must first establish the conditions for the dialogue through personal contacts. The president has been very generous in appointing me as the representative...

[Vargas, interrupting] You are the government spokesman.

[De la Puente] That is correct, and the president has reiterated that.

[Vargas] However, before we go into the dialogue, *per se*—which I feel is a very important issue and which we are going to discuss here later on—I would like to know if the electoral law is going to be modified or not. What is the criteria behind that?

[De la Puente] One thing is linked to the other. One cannot talk about a dialogue between deaf people.

[Vargas] That is right. The National Electoral Board [JNE] will know what it will be able to do. A dialogue cannot be postponed.

[De la Puente] No. The JNE urgently needs to strengthen the institution. I do not think anyone in the country can even imagine or understand the conditions in which the new JNE president found that organization.

[Vargas] It needs a reorganization or what?

[De la Puente] It does not just need a reorganization.... [pauses] There is a group of magistrates who form the JNE who have been set aside, and the new president is a career magistrate, a retired official of the Supreme Court. We have absolute faith in him and his absolute independence and impartiality. It would not be logical if we thought there would be any manipulation of the electoral process, and we would not be talking then of democracy. The JNE requires institutional strengthening because we are really very backward in that regard. We do not have a computerized system of controls. There are millions of forged electoral identification cards. The voter registration lists that should have been at the JNE were at a print shop. The tapes of the master plan of the 1990 elections were nowhere to be found. They were in somebody's house. These are things the people should know. People should not just go around blaming people. We must realize that this is how things were handled in this country. We had to spend over 17 days recovering the tapes of the master plan, and from there stems the process of purging the voter registration lists. If you can imagine the state of things, then you can well imagine how things should be so that we can hold together the transparent electoral process—a process that is demanded not only by the Peruvian people, but by the entire hemisphere—with minimal basic resources, so that it can be carried out adequately.

That is why we have set this deadline of five months. Many people here and abroad thought elections could be convoked in two weeks. We are very far from being able to do that. That is why The Bahamas Paragraph 3 of Resolution 292 establishes that the OAS will have to support and provide technical and technological assistance for the JNE. It needs to do so the moment that Peru—as a sovereign country—formally requests the assistance. Such assistance has been requested. On behalf of my country, I presented a formal request before the secretary general, and he immediately gave us a positive answer. Several issues are being worked on. We are trying to obtain the resources and also provide the technology, systems, and equipment. All of this will reinforce the internal management of the JNE and will

enable us to carry out the process successfully and be ready to convoke the congress on time.

[Jara] You have emphasized an important point. You have mentioned issues the country should know about to prevent such disagreements or rumors. I would like to ask you something. Judging by the comments I have heard, you seem very positive about the dialogue. Yet the government apparently does not want to see you play that role. Why does the government not present the issues very clearly? Evidence of that is that after Foreign Minister Gros Espiell was here, the issue of the plebiscite was defined. It was said there would not be a plebiscite and that we would move directly onto the elections for the CCD. You later said there might be a plebiscite, and again the issue was brought up. That did not make Peru look very good abroad. Why was that point made? Why is there an insistence on creating some sort of a front against the political parties, instead of clearly proposing what they are asking for, which is what the people would like to know about. The question is: Why not have a very clear attitude about teaching the people, as you mentioned, and of clearly explaining that and avoiding such confrontations?

[De la Puente] I would not say there is any confrontation, Mr. Jara....

[Jara, interrupting] Or discrepancies....

[De la Puente, interrupting] What I understand is that there exists at this time a stage that is the consequence of a temporary suspension of constitutional legitimacy. The loss of parliamentary privileges has affected the members of the dissolved parliament. That situation has led to a certain animosity, discrepancy, and criticism. It is evident from the very fact that the congressmen met yesterday and addressed a note to the OAS secretary general. Apparently, the government does not want to talk. It has disobeyed the protocol of the Nassau Conference. The threats do not lead precisely to meetings and talks. As the interlocutor designated by the president to stimulate dialogue, I am publicly and formally extending an invitation to attend a dialogue on 30 June. On 30 June, I intend to sit down and talk with the opposition political forces and some of the non-political sectors that have expressed their desire to participate by making proposals—both as juridical entities and as citizens—to modify the country's traditional structures existing on 4 April. No one in Peru at present wants a return to the status quo of 4 April. We are aware that this is perhaps one of the greatest achievements of the measures adopted by the emergency government because it was necessary to change the country. The Constitution itself established a sort of codicil, a self-protection formula that precluded the introduction of amendments. All of that entails a reality we cannot ignore. The country needed to have its institutions transformed, and that transformation must be reflected in the amendments of the new consolidated constitution, which will come up during the debate in the CCD. Consultation with the

people through a referendum is a method established in all democratic countries. Listen, Mr. Jara...

[Jara, interrupting] I was referring to a plebiscite.

[De La Puente] I know. I will tell you what I am going to tell you anyway. The European countries—following the historical process of German unification and the disappearance of the USSR—are so far from us that the problems appear to be in another dimension. However, they are connected to our reality. After five years of a process of standardizing border regulations, passports, taxes, parliamentary structures, and even legislative norms, all countries of the world could reach a treaty. That treaty could go into effect immediately after all the people of the signatory countries expressed their approval of it.

Two or three days ago, a wire report from Denmark said that the Danish people voted against European union in a plebiscite called by the government. A plebiscite in Denmark.... [pauses] What does the head of state say in Denmark after the plebiscite? Given that it is the will of the people, we must abide by it, because the people are sovereign. How can a country with very few resources like ours prevent the people from expressing how they want to be governed, if we do not hold an election? A country such as ours, which needs education; a country with thousands of schools destroyed and millions of children who cannot study; a country with professionals who wander about the country without a goal. There is no willingness to investigate and improve the intellectual and academic training of students. The country needs to be educated.

As Foreign Minister Gros Espiell, the prominent jurist and politician, has clearly stated, the OAS will not act as judge, referee, or mediator. He is simply fulfilling a mission to promote dialogue between the government, the political forces, and other sectors of the population. If we begin a dialogue of fragmented parties, and the government meets exclusively with the opposition political forces, we will be leaving a large segment of the population outside the dialogue. That prompted the initiative by the National Dialogue Office for Peace and Development. That initiative is not aimed at getting together groups or persons or at creating an administrative element to secure compliance with the agreements. The commissions and subcommissions of the National Dialogue Office for Peace and Development can convey the opinion of the people and make recommendations or suggestions concerning the forms of government that could be suitable.

[Vargas] I agree with this. I do not believe the political parties are necessarily the only entities with which the government must talk. Perhaps they are less valid representatives today because of the loss of representativity they sustained before the citizens. The point then is why create a front against those who today do not represent the citizens' opinions? In sum, this is a [words indistinct] position. I think the important thing is that the

announcement, like the one you are making today, to begin a dialogue not only with the political parties, but with all sectors of society on a specific date...

[De la Puente, interrupting] On 30 June.

[Vargas] It is good for the country. That is the commitment of this program. The dialogue begins on 30 June.

[De la Puente] Beginning now, with the exception of the periods during which I will travel to represent our country, the government will establish contacts with the spokesmen of the political parties to establish the mechanisms that will lead us to sit down at a table and begin talking on 30 June.

[Vargas] Let me ask you a very straightforward question, Mr. Prime Minister. Is the government planning to enact a political parties' law before the elections?

[De la Puente] That issue is still being analyzed. It is being evaluated just as we are evaluating other issues, such as the introduction of an electoral system, the establishment of... [pauses] To sum it up, a series of measures have been proposed to be established from now until the date of the elections, but they have not yet been decided on for a very logical reason. If we had prepared a system beforehand, there would have been no reason for a dialogue.

[Vargas] The dialogue would have been in advance, right?

[De la Puente] Coincidentally...

[Vargas, interrupting] Some people are asking why the government would want to pass a political parties' law. In other words, why would the government have to reveal the rules of the game for the political parties to participate? That would not be right. In short, I believe that a dialogue can...

[De la Puente, interrupting] All those issues are currently being analyzed. It is impossible, and it would not be prudent to expect the government, with five months remaining until the elections, to have everything codified so that there will not be any need for a dialogue. We must improve. This is a return to an institutional legitimacy. I would not describe it as a return to the former democracy, a sort of...

[Vargas, interrupting] Return to a new democracy.

[De la Puente] It is a sort of recollection of the future.

[Vargas] A recollection of the future?

[De la Puente] Exactly.

[Vargas] It is now Francisco Yrigoyen Praelli's turn.

[Yrigoyen] Thank you Dennis. Mr. President of the Council of Ministers, your last statements, which were made in response to a question by Dennis Vargas, leads me to an issue I want to take up once again. President

Fujimori is very prone to surround his measures with an air of suspense. However, you as a lawyer realize that if there is one thing where there cannot be any suspense it is precisely the rules of the game for an electoral process. This is because the electoral process must have not only a moral imperative and political clarity, it also must have certain essential organizational elements. A date has already been set for the elections, and there are still four months left. However, the jury needs to know the guidelines in order to prepare the respective voting ballots. The organizations that are planning to present their respective candidates need to know the rules to plan their candidate selection process; these people must organize a campaign to tell the public what is taking place. There must be a debate. When people vote they like to know who they are voting for and why. Furthermore, all of us, as analysts, must analyze the electoral guidelines. The fact that you have announced the dialogue date is very positive because I believe all of this must be done by means of a dialogue.

Now for my first question. If we start on 30 June, does this mean that before this date the electoral guidelines will not have been set, if what we are expecting is for these guidelines to emerge from a dialogue. If the time period continues to grow shorter, why not move the dialogue starting date forward? Now for my second question. Several things were implied when a CCD was formally announced. The political parties would have to make way for traditional representation. I am sure, just as you said, that all is not ready yet. However, there must be some idea about this issue because everyone is watching and listening to what is taking place. Where is democracy? What will the rules be? The government will obviously try to find a mechanism to avoid traditional political representatives from being present at the elections. This opens the door to mistrust. I believe all of this that must come out of a dialogue must be clarified once and for all; if not, then the available time will be insufficient. This could eventually block the electoral process. What are your answers to these questions?

[De La Puente] I believe your questions are very appropriate just as everything else we have been talking about is appropriate.

[Yrigoyen] Thank you.

[De La Puente] I understand your concern regarding the clear-cut rules of the game you referred to, as well as President Fujimori's fondness for surrounding everything with an air of mystery. That is President Fujimori's style and we cannot do anything about it. We cannot try to change him.

[Yrigoyen] However, every person must adjust to the needs of the country.

[De la Puente] Correct. However, the country's needs are above any person's, even though every person is the ultimate objective of every society. The issues under evaluation concern specific cases of clear-cut rules of the game. We are also evaluating the existence of specific

dialogue mechanisms to develop strategies and fundamental guidelines for the national jury to implement an adequate electoral process. All of this is closely linked to the country's current possibilities as well as to the electoral system to develop it. There were several [words indistinct] last week working together with the national electoral jury. They were provided with a complete view of how the national electoral jury works. A technical recommendation is being prepared at the OAS for the electoral process to be more efficiently developed. I think it would be inappropriate for the government to establish an electoral process mechanism at this time if technical assistance has been requested. We are now referring to preparing the national voters' identification cards, specifying the districts, and other aspects related to an electoral process. I believe it would be wiser to wait some more. We have waited for so long, and we are requesting so much at one time. It would be inappropriate to make a statement of principles at this time because we would be overdoing it.

[Yrigoyen] Yes, but...

[De la Puente, interrupting] Considering the current situation in the country, I urge you to explain all this to the Peruvian people. I would beg you to explain to the people, through the media, through this message, that we are working very seriously and professionally, and that we are not improvising.

The OAS has described our electoral system as above board. The electoral process has to be clear and above board. It must include free elections, general elections, with citizens, voters, voting freely. This is what democracy means.

It would be unjust to negatively affect democracy by imposing rules on the process right now. We are not through preparing the electoral process and we do not want to make announcements that later we may have to rescind, thus leaving ourselves open for some people to say: Look, they are doing things differently.

Let us not try to force the machinery to function faster than it is functioning now. I want to announce to the country that on 30 June I am going to initiate the dialogue. Do not ask me to start it earlier. We are not setting dates with a basis on whims that can be altered to initiate the dialogue on either 30, 24, or 16 June. We are functioning based on a formal, professional, and systematic sequence that we must follow.

[Vargas] We all want to have everything clarified. This is a problem of specialists but the people must know that specific political results depend on how an electoral system is designed. The results of election based on a single national district—a proposition I am not going to be able to explain now because there is no time—would be different from elections based on 80 electoral districts.

If I were to divide the country into 80 districts so that there is one representative from each district, I am going

to have one particular result. If I say these districts may have candidates and those districts cannot, again, the results will be different. The experts do whatever the politicians ask them to do. What is the government asking the experts to do? The foreign experts are not going to tell us what electoral system we should have. They, as experts, will design a system with basis on whatever you ask them to do. What are we asking them to do?

[De la Puente] The OAS technical assistance to our country's electoral system is to provide us with elements and tools that our electoral system does not have now. Consequently, the electoral mechanisms to be adopted will be a product of a decision by Peru as a sovereign country. We are very grateful for the technological support being provided by the OAS, but this does not mean the OAS is going to be instructing us on every single detail. Everybody, including the OAS, is fully aware of this.

[Vargas] Mr. Minister, we invite you to inform us during the next program about the proposals you will be taking to Rio de Janeiro.

De La Puente Interviewed Upon Departure for Rio

PA0906194492 Lima Panamericana Television
Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Interview with Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, by unidentified reporters at the Lima airport on 9 June—recorded]

[Text] [De la Puente] I am going to the Earth Summit in Brazil. This is an important meeting, which will be attended by more than 100 heads of state as representatives of all industrialized and developing nations. The two main topics of the summit are contained in two draft resolutions on biodiversity, in other words the use of [word indistinct] to preserve the planet's environment and to protect the climate against environmental destruction: The destruction of the ozone layer, the use of pesticides, the pollution of rivers and seas, and the destruction of forests. All our countries are struggling to preserve the continent for the generations in the 21st century. Hence, the presence of more than 100 heads of state is of great importance, particularly at this time.

[Reporter] What is the Peruvian Government's position on the subject? [De la Puente] We maintain a traditional position in support of development through natural resources for the progress of developing nations, but without devastating our natural wealth. We will be in Brazil until 14 June. The heads of state will speak on 13 June, and we will be returning on 14 June, after the closure.

[Reporter] When will President Fujimori be leaving?

[De la Puente] He will be departing this weekend to deliver a speech at this international forum, which is truly a very important summit in view of the presence of so many heads of state, kings, and presidents.

[Reporter] What other activities are on the president's agenda?

[De la Puente] Probably some bilateral meetings, which I will coordinate upon arrival. We will do everything possible to make sure that Peru's presence is felt.

[Reporter] Will we seek any type of technical cooperation?

[De la Puente] We are not only seeking bilateral cooperation, we are also defending the hemisphere's position. We should not forget that Peru has more than 700,000 square meters of forests in the Amazon Region. Undoubtedly, the preservation of this region as part of the oxygen for the planet is a position we must support with all Latin American countries. We view with concern the possibility that industrialized countries could permanently harm our natural resources, which we must protect.

[Reporter] When will the final resolution be issued?

[De la Puente] The two resolutions should be ready on 14 June. There are still some differences that must be reconciled, but we understand that the results of the meeting will be known this weekend.

Armed Forces Communique on Traffic Restrictions

PA0906200792 Lima Radio Programs del Peru
Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jun 92

[“Official” Communique No. 9 issued by the Armed Forces Joint Command Office of Public Relations in Lima on 9 June]

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command hereby informs the people of the following:

1. The measures to restrict urban traffic that have been adopted to guarantee the safety of the population will be implemented as of Wednesday, 10 June from 2200 to 0500 of the following morning.

A. Motor vehicles for mass transportation, omnibuses, and minibuses are authorized to circulate with safe-conducts through established main routes. Duly accredited taxis are also authorized to circulate, as well as interprovincial vehicles for passenger and cargo transportation between control posts and the terminal stations, using main routes authorized to this effect. Private vehicles that must travel due to unforeseen circumstances that are duly justified will also be allowed to circulate.

B. Safe-conducts will be issued in the following locations: Los Angeles Bridge, Chacacayo, main highway, the Santa Rosa control post, (Pancon), the northern Panamerican highway, the San Bartolo toll station, the southern Panamerican highway, the Villa toll station, the Villarreal Sports Center, (Guarocho), Ejercito Avenue, Miraflores, (Limos) Colosseum, San Borja, (Ugarte) Stadium, San Martin de Porres Stadium, International

Airport, El Callao Harbor Master's Office, (Club de Carlos Marinaes, El Chicuito) in Callao, and El Callao Maritime Terminal.

2. In the event of a duly justified emergency, a white cloth will be displayed in a visible spot on the vehicle and the interior lights of the vehicle must remain on.

3. All vehicles must circulate at moderate speed and must stop upon request by the control patrols.

4. The Armed Forces Joint Command urges the citizenry of Lima and Callao to cooperate with the police and military forces in charge of implementing these measures to contribute toward the achievement of the goals of pacification, an endeavor of all Peruvians. [Issued] Lima, 9 June 1992 [Signed] Armed Forces Joint Command Office of Public Relations

Anti-Imperialist Liberation Front Protests

PA1006040792 Lima Global de Television Network
in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Members of the so-called Anti-Imperialist Liberation Front caused serious disturbances on the evening of 9 June. In addition to burning tires and throwing Molotov cocktails, they staged demonstrations on the first block of Paseo de la Republica and at the Paseo Colon intersection. The police acted with force and was able to disperse the demonstrators.

A large group of the Anti-Imperialist Liberation Front—a student faction of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]—threw Molotov cocktails and burned tires at Paseo Colon Avenue and Paseo de la Republica, a few meters from Grau Plaza. The individuals placed the heavy objects in the middle of the street to get the attention of passersby and to protest the current regime, then fled. These incidents took place at 1815 on June 9. The traffic on these important Lima streets has been held up for several minutes.

MRTA Leader Polay Campos Reportedly Arrested

PY1006113292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0501 GMT
10 Jun 92

[Text] Lima, 9 Jun (EFE)—Two television stations have reported that Victor Polay Campos, the commander of the Peruvian Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) armed group, was arrested tonight by police forces at a house in Lima two years after he escaped from a local prison.

Venezuela

Spanish Prime Minister Arrives, Sees Perez

LD0906091692 Madrid TVE Internacional
Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 8 Jun 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez began his official visit to Latin America today. The visit will take him to Bolivia and Brazil, where he will attend the Earth summit. But beforehand, he stopped over in Venezuela to see his old friend, Carlos Andres Perez, who is facing a delicate situation due to economic problems and the specter of a new coup attempt. In Caracas, Felipe Gonzalez said that support for Venezuelan democracy is the best way to solve the problems the country is experiencing. Here is the report from our special correspondent Javier Saenz:

[Saenz] This is the first time Felipe Gonzalez has met his old friend Carlos Andres Perez since the coup attempt of 4 February. Four months later, instability and the specter of the coup continue to threaten Venezuela. The Venezuelan president received Felipe Gonzalez at the foot of the aircraft's steps. They then went to a room at Maiquetia Airport, where they held a private meeting. Shortly afterward they joined a meeting with several Venezuelan ministers, the secretaries general of Democratic Action, the government party, and COPEI, the main opposition party. Both political parties are looking to draw up a form of national front for democracy, which some sectors say should be extended to other parties and institutions, including the armed forces. At a news conference held after the meeting, Felipe Gonzalez expressed his support for Venezuelan democracy:

[Gonzalez] "I am one of those who believe that no solution is better than the maintenance of democracy, and if there is a will to improve things then I think that democracy is the way to solve political, economic and social problems."

[Saenz] Despite the wave of coups sweeping though the barracks of Latin America, the prime minister repeated, as he did at the Guadalajara summit less than a year ago, his belief in the irreversibility of the democratic system for Latin America:

[Gonzalez] "One doesn't have to lose sight of the historic perspective. That doesn't mean that absolute rule is always going to mean stability from the institutional democratic point of view. There could be some exceptions. But finally the trend will end up by winning because, I repeat, I am firmly convinced that this is the solution for all our peoples."

[Saenz] Felipe Gonzalez does not believe that the Madrid Ibero-American summit is in danger because of that. The prime minister referred to the latest arrests of ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] members, saying that although important progress is being made he prefers to remain cautious.

[Gonzalez] "No one can give an absolute guarantee that there is no murderer capable of killing somebody or planting a bomb somewhere."

[Saenz] At 1830, Spanish time, the prime minister left for Bolivia.

Holds News Conference

PA0906002192 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 1610 GMT 8 Jun 92

[News conference by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez at the VIP Room of the Maiquetia Airport in Caracas with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters—live]

[Text] [Moderator] Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister. The first question is from the EFE reporter.

[EFE] Mr. Prime Minister....

[Gonzalez, interrupting] I hear him, but I cannot see him. Oh, there he is.

[EFE] Good morning, Mr. Prime Minister. During this, your second visit to Venezuela this year, you have met with other prominent politicians—other than President Carlos Andres Perez—who are representatives of the Venezuelan political scene. Could these visits be seen as a message of support for Venezuelan democracy, given the difficult situation in the country? And, have you discussed the Ibero-American summit to be held in Madrid in 40 days? Have you also discussed the economic agreement and the general cooperation and friendship treaty signed between Spain and Venezuela?

[Gonzalez] There are three questions in one. First question: If you wish to interpret the visits as such, then very well. I have great trust in Venezuela's democratic institutions. Venezuela has been a fine example of democratic development for a long time. I feel it would be reasonable to support and uphold that good example, for the Venezuelan people and for the other Latin American countries. I believe that maintaining democracy is better than no solution at all. If there is a will to improve things, then I feel that democracy is the path to solving the political, social and economic problems.

The second issue was the summit. We have talked about it a little, and we are making preparations to arrive at a document that offers conclusions rather than more statements. We already have a few plans that are not only compatible but also complementary.

The third question is about the decisions that the Venezuelan Chamber of Deputies must make after a bilateral agreement is signed. I will wait for the Chamber of Deputies to reach its decision, and I will respect whatever that decision may be. I hope, therefore, that the decision comes up so that we can have an instrument by which to improve our bilateral relations, but with full respect for the sovereign decision of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Moderator] Fernando Corte from Venevision Television.

[Corte] Good morning to both leaders. Mr. Prime Minister, there has been a return to fascism in recent years. That is to say that there are neofascist movements that

have come together in small political cells bearing considerable electoral weight. That has happened all over Europe. Moreover, there was a considerable increase in those fascist groups in the French elections. At first, it was believed that they were youths with certain ideas, but they have organized themselves and carry considerable political weight.

Is there a problem in Spain, considering there have been isolated attacks on immigrants?

[Gonzalez] Let us discuss the situation. I have the impression that what is happening now does not resemble very much what happened in Europe 60 years ago, when the fascist movement emerged. We are inclined to simplify concepts to help explain them. Some may say it looks very much like fascism. But no, I think that what we have now is a different situation. There are extreme right demonstrations, expressions of xenophobia, and some expressions by a mixture of extreme right and extreme left elements. Those expressions became more intense, especially following the fall of the Berlin Wall and the elimination of the blocs policy.

There is a dispersion problem. The traditional political parties or forces have lost some credibility, and some populist groups are trying to take advantage of that. I think that the problem will be quite transitory in Europe. If you look at the results of elections in Germany, a country where that virus could gain force, you will see that the populists have lost significant strength. I think that fascism is no source of concern.

There is a lack of equilibrium between the developed countries and the countries that are trying to become developed and those that are enduring a suffocating state of underdevelopment. That lack of equilibrium is more visible now because it is not being hidden behind the vanished East-West confrontation.

No one here or in Europe can claim there is an island of prosperity surrounded by a sea of misery and problems, because everybody would start planning an assault on the island of prosperity. When more or less defensive attitudes appear in a country, which are being interpreted as xenophobic, some people begin thinking it is because that country is an island of prosperity.

I beg you to think about this: There are millions of immigrants in Europe who went there 10, 12, 15, or 20 years ago. Approximately 1.5 million of the immigrants are from my country. They crossed the Pyrenees. They did not migrate idly. They were required by the production mandates of the more developed countries. Now new immigration waves are being viewed as a threat, because there is no room for the new immigrants. I am sorry to say that I have to end my answer to you at that point.

[Moderator] From the Spanish newspaper VAN-GUARDIA.

[VANGUARDIA] Mr. Prime Minister, do you believe the coup in Peru two months ago and the instability in Venezuela and other countries will jeopardize the Madrid summit? And, if I may sir, do you believe that the danger of attacks against the Expo 92 fair in Seville and the Olympic games in Barcelona has been neutralized, given the latest ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization] arrests? Also, have you spoken with President Perez about the possibility of a raid, such as that in Uruguay, against alleged ETA activists who have sought protection in Venezuela?

[Gonzalez] I will begin with the second question, as it is easier. You know I prefer not to discuss the fight against terrorism, so as not to give them any clues, among other things. When one in good faith makes a statement on such an extremely delicate issue, one always gives away information. Without a doubt, it is quite obvious that significant progress is being made, without my having to make any statements. Nobody can totally guarantee that there are no murderers out there capable of killing someone or placing a bomb on a corner—not Spain or anyone else. We must be extremely alert for such events. We have not addressed that specific issue, but we have reviewed the evolution of internal events in our countries, as we usually do whenever we meet.

I would like to say that, less than a year ago during my speech in Guadalajara—the seven or eight minute one—I took the liberty of reviewing my vision of the continent's evolution or that of Ibero-America, if you prefer. I believe there is a general tendency toward democratization, peace, and hence, an overcoming of the move toward alternate models. There is also a tendency toward regional integration, which has a lot to do with valid economic policies. That strong historic tendency, as I see it, will not come to a halt just because certain incidents happen on the way. There are surely going to be a few because of specific difficulties at one time or another. That tendency will continue to become stronger and to consolidate. One does not have to lose sight of the historical perspective of the movement, however. From an institutional and democratic point of view, it does not mean overall stability will always be the general rule. There may be a few exceptions but the tendency will succeed in the end. Let me repeat that I am completely convinced that this is the solution for the people of all our countries. Certain setbacks that might be seen at any given time as regressive will be washed away by history.

COPEI Official on Ochoa Remark, Gonzalez Visit
PA0906173192 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] Upon his return from La Guaira, Copei [Social Christian Party] Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez rejected the alleged secret meetings of the Armed Forces and the statements attributed to the defense minister. Fernandez, accompanied by Foreign Minister Humberto

Calderon Berti, Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz; Luis Alfaro Lucero, Democratic Action Party secretary general; and Carmelo Lauria, former interior affairs minister, had visited Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who was briefly visiting our country, in La Guaira.

Regarding the Armed Forces personnel meetings, Fernandez said that that institution was not deliberative and, thus, should avoid giving political opinions or opinions about the country's situation.

[Begin Fernandez recording] I do not understand the meeting, the statements attributed to the minister,—frankly, I do not understand them—or why the meeting has been given so much publicity. I believe the Armed Forces, just as the Constitution stipulates, is a nondeliberative institution. It is a very important institution in the country, but one that we should not, for any reason, politicize. That would be a very serious mistake. [end recording]

The Copei leader reported they had met very briefly with the Spanish prime minister and talked about trade and bilateral relations. Gonzalez reaffirmed his country's support to Venezuela, he added.

In relation to the government's detractors—that is, all the people who complain about what is being done and what has not been done—Fernandez emphasized they should gear their criticism to improving the country's policies as that would allow Venezuela to avoid uncertain situations.

Ochoa Reads Communique About Retiree Meeting
PA0906020892 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry in Caracas on 8 June—read by Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich]

[Text] With regard to information published by some media on matters having to do with the nation's Armed Forces, I believe it is appropriate to explain to the people the following:

1. The meeting held at the Defense Ministry Theater, between the defense minister and retired officers, was for the purpose of delivering a Defense Ministry contribution for the construction of a building for the Institute of Retired Officers of the nation's Armed Forces and for the presentation of a conference on military doctrines of the National Armed Forces.

At that meeting, I discussed the following key issues:

- A. The unrestricted support of the nation's Armed Forces for the constitutional regime and Venezuelan democracy;

B. The need to maintain unaltered the apolitical, obedient, and nondeliberative position of the armed institution;

C. The rejection of the divisive position of the MBR-200 [Bolivarian 200 Revolutionary Movement], considering that it is contrary to the values and traditions of the National Armed Forces.

D. No person or national sector was criticized at that meeting.

2. With regard to speculative reports published in some media sources—reports that discuss an alleged situation of unrest within the Armed Forces due to military promotions—it is hereby affirmed that the promotions process was carried out in keeping with military norms and laws.

3. We reject reports published on 6 June 1992 on page 2-2 of EL NACIONAL because those reports are groundless and tendentious. They point to actions that are contrary to a cooperative Armed Forces.

4. The Defense Ministry has not ordered the preparation of a poll, as EL NACIONAL reported. It has not ordered any other poll either, because this ministry does not have a policy of gauging public opinion through such tools. This is a matter of someone using the name of the Defense Ministry and the prestige of the Armed Forces to give validity to a poll for which no one, apparently, is responsible.

Bulgaria's Zhelev Begins Latin American Tour

*AU080612492 Sofia BTA in English 1016 GMT
8 Jun 92*

[Yordanka Bozhilova report]

[Text] Caracas, June 8 (BTA)—The Bulgarian President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev told BTA that economic cooperation will be high on the agenda of the meetings which he will hold in Latin America. He said that back on board the plane which took him to Venezuela, the first leg of his Latin American tour. Dr. Zhelev will also pay official visits to Uruguay and Argentina and will attend for four days the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In Caracas the Bulgarian head of state was welcomed by the President of Venezuela Mr. Carlos Andres Perez.

President Zhelev is accompanied by Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey, Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev MP of the ruling Union of Democratic Forces and a large group of businessmen, some of whom represent the private sector. The participation of Bulgarian businessmen in this first tour of Latin America by a Bulgarian head of state reaffirms the priority of economic contacts with that part of the world.

Parallel to the talks between the two countries' presidents and chief diplomats, the official and the economic delegation will confer with government ministers and representatives of the local business community. Mr. Ganey and his Venezuelan counterpart, Mr. Humberto Calderon Berti, are to sign documents, the guests will visit parliament and Dr. Zhelev will give a news conference.

South America was long ignored by Bulgarian foreign policy. The current tour of President Zhelev and his party is intended to lay the foundations of modern relations in line with the democratic processes and changes in Bulgaria.

Talks With Parliamentarians

*AU0806194792 Sofia BTA in English 1927 GMT
8 Jun 92*

[Text] Sofia, June 8 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev's visit to Venezuela, which started yesterday, marked the beginning of his tour of several Latin American countries which will end with the signing of the documents of the Earth Summit '92 in Brazil.

President Zhelyu Zhelev's talks with the president and the vice-president of the Venezuelan parliament established a similarity between the current processes of change in Bulgaria and Venezuela, the special correspondent of the Bulgarian radio reported from Caracas. Mr. Zhelev pointed out that in Bulgaria the political reform is already a fact but the problem with the economic reform remains to be solved.

The talks, which were attended by Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey and Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev, member of the parliamentary Foreign Policy Committee, gave prominence to economic issues. The two sides exchanged information on the intentions and the progress of the privatization processes, the adjustment of the structures of the two economies to the requirements of the world market and the problems with emigrants and the attitude to them. These discussions actually outlined the framework of the possible concrete economic cooperation between Bulgaria and Venezuela.

Economic issues were also discussed by Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey and the Venezuelan Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti at a separate meeting. The two foreign ministers are expected to complete their talks with the signing of important documents in the field of economic, sci-technical and cultural cooperation.

In his capacity as leader of the United Democratic Centre (in the ruling Union of Democratic Forces), Mr. Stoyan Ganey also had talks with Dr. Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Partido Social-Cristiano-Copei and chairman of the Christian Democrats International. The United Democratic Centre is a member of the European Section of the Christian Democrats International.

The Bulgarian guests acquainted themselves with the historical and cultural traditions of Venezuela. Dr.

Zhelev and his party laid a wreath at the sarcophagus of Simon Bolivar in the National Pantheon and visited the national library in which there is a Bulgarian section.

President Zhelyu Zhelev is to meet Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The official Bulgarian delegation is accompanied by 14 representatives of state-owned and private business. The participants in the Bulgarian-Venezuelan dialogue explored the possibilities for signing a treaty on the mutual promotion and protection of investments and an agreement on avoiding double taxation.

During their meetings the Bulgarian businessmen proposed new forms of cooperation such as joint ventures and a commercial exchange between the two countries on a compensatory basis. The Venezuelan businessmen showed interest in Bulgarian medicines and agriculture.

An agreement is expected to be reached for the joint production of synthetic quartz crystals after a Bulgarian technology and of car parts of aluminum alloys as well as on the export of 100 Bulgarian freight-cars against Venezuelan iron ore.

Venezuela, as well as the other Latin American countries with which similar contacts are to be established, views Bulgaria as a bridge to economic cooperation with the former Soviet Republics, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, according to the special correspondent of the Bulgarian radio in Caracas.

Further on Meeting

AU0906094392 Sofia BTA in English 0815 GMT
9 Jun 92

[Report by special correspondent Yordanka Bozhilova]

[Text] Caracas, June 9 (BTA) - President Zhelyu Zhelev, who is on an official visit here, and the delegation headed by him yesterday met with the President and the Vice-president of the Venezuelan Parliament Pedro Paris Montesinos and Luis Enrique Oberto.

Dr. Zhelev elaborated the current condition of the Bulgarian economic reform, stressing the problems of privatization and the restitution of urban property, the land restitution and the need for foreign investment. He said that the country's economic development has come to a point when the reform is irreversible. In this complicated and difficult situation Bulgaria relies very much on mutual assistance and economic cooperation with countries like Venezuela, on joint ventures which will help increase investment, on modern technologies and new markets.

The sides focused on the need for relaxed tax and visa regulations between the two countries and on the inflow of highly qualified Bulgarian immigrants to Venezuela. It was stressed that among the former East European

countries Bulgaria has the highest percentage of university graduates of its total population. Of all East European countries, Bulgaria deserves the greatest attention, the hosts concluded.

On his part, M.P. Mikhail Nedelchev said that democratic Bulgaria wants to break with the old image of the immigrant. "Our experts will work abroad but we will still consider them our compatriots and it is important to us that they should form a Bulgarian community," he said.

The president of the Venezuelan parliament told BTA that it was a real pleasure meeting the Bulgarian president. Mr. Montesinos said the visit will strengthen and expand the friendship with the Bulgarian state leadership and parliament in unison with the wish of the Venezuelan people. "We told the Bulgarian president that Venezuela is strongly interested in the inflow of Bulgarian immigrants. The Venezuelan people will make them feel welcome and will be grateful to them because they will help strengthen our economy, our democracy and our country. We have very good relations of similarity and understanding with Bulgarian parliamentarians. That is why this visit has encouraged us to expand contacts between Bulgaria and Venezuela," Mr. Montesinos said.

Yesterday the Bulgarian Embassy in Venezuela hosted a big reception in honour of the Bulgarian president. It was attended by parliamentarians, financiers, economists and businessmen, who established contacts with the Bulgarian official and economic delegation.

Urges Macedonian Recognition

AU0906115792 Sofia BTA in English 0908 GMT
9 Jun 92

[BTA special correspondent Yordanka Bozhilova report]

[Text] Caracas, June 9 (BTA)—"I took the liberty of inviting the Venezuelan President, Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, to recognize Macedonia because there are no serious arguments for neglecting it. He promised to do this and said that it is a matter of days," President Zhelev said at a news conference last night following the completion of the official talks at the Miraflores Presidential Palace.

The Foreign ministers of Bulgaria and Venezuela, Mr. Stoyan Ganev and Mr. Humberto Calderon Berti, signed four documents: On cooperation in culture, science and education, a framework agreement for technical, scientific and technological cooperation, an agreement on the introduction of visa-free entry for diplomatic and service passport holders, and a memorandum on the agreement reached on the establishment of a mechanism for consultations between the foreign ministries of Bulgaria and Venezuela.

According to the press release and the answers President Zhelev gave to journalists, the analysis of bilateral relations determined the need to facilitate contacts between the business circles and private business and to step up economic and trade contacts between the two countries. Needs will be further studied and additional agreements will be signed in this field.

The Bulgarian president pointed out that beyond the framework of bilateral relations, Venezuela could become a bridge for Bulgaria to the Andean Pact, to the South American Mercosur Market Group and to other Latin American economic organizations. And Bulgaria could play the role of an intermediary between Venezuela and the markets of the former Soviet republics and the countries of the so-called Black Sea Zone.

What is more, Venezuela could help Bulgaria with its iron ore, oil products and with the possibilities for an independent use of the petrochemical combined works in the Bulgarian Black Sea City of Burgas. And Bulgaria can offer Venezuela relatively high technologies in the pharmaceutical industry and highly qualified workers in the field of the chemical, pharmaceutical and electronic industry and in some branches of agriculture.

President Carlos Andres Perez confirmed his support for the people and the Government of Bulgaria in their efforts to guarantee and strengthen the democratic system and to carry out the transition to a market economy. Dr. Zhelev said at the news conference that his Venezuelan counterpart expressed his concern over developments in Yugoslavia and over the fact that Europe has proved helpless to solve this specific kind of internal conflict.

Dr. Zhelev explained the Bulgarian position on developments in Yugoslavia and its reasons for the recognition of some of the former Yugoslav republics. He also voiced his concern over the fact that the EC has not recognized Macedonia yet. The presidents discussed the dangers of the post-communist period in which communism takes its last refuge in nationalism, which makes it particularly dangerous and enables it to stage bloody dramas as in Yugoslavia and some former Soviet republics.

Foreign ministers Humberto Calderon Berti of Venezuela and Stoyan Ganey of Bulgaria discussed similar subjects, as well as the introduction of visa-free entry on a reciprocal basis.

Yesterday's political and diplomatic marathon of the Bulgarian official delegation, the attending businessmen and the reporters who had to jump from one meeting to another, ended with an official dinner given by President Carlos Andres Perez in honour of Dr. Zhelev at the La Casona Residence. Dr. Zhelev presented the order of the Balkan Range [as published], first class, to the Venezuelan president. Mr. Carlos Andres Perez presented the highest Venezuelan Order of Simon Bolivar the Liberator to Dr. Zhelev. The Venezuelan president said it was a fine and important day for Venezuela. Its people and its government welcomed one of the democratic leaders

of Eastern Europe and paid tribute to the Bulgarian people and its first democratically elected leaders after the end of communism in Bulgaria. Mr. Carlos Andres Perez said. He added that Venezuela appreciates highly Bulgaria's new role in strengthening democracy and peace in the world.

Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganey was presented the Francisco Demiranda order.

Today the Bulgarian delegation led by Dr. Zhelev is leaving for Montevideo, Uruguay, where it will be on an official visit until June 11.

Perez Comments on Foreign Leaders' Visits

PA0906221192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Bulgarian President Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev left our country on 9 June. During his official two-day visit he signed four major bilateral cooperation agreements, which among other things will lead to greater ties of friendship between our two countries. President Carlos Andres Perez, accompanied by Foreign Minister Humberto Calderon Berti and other top government officials, bade farewell to the Bulgarian president at the Simon Bolivar International Airport.

President Perez and Foreign Minister Calderon took advantage of this opportunity to comment on the importance, not just in diplomatic but also in specific economic terms, of the visits made by various international personalities to our country.

[Begin recording] [Perez] This visit demonstrates our country's importance. The importance of these visits is obvious; they provide an opportunity to expand bilateral ties and sign cooperation agreements. That is what we have accomplished. The most important development will be the meeting of the Group of Three to be held during the visit of Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

[Calderon] I think the visits by the many foreign dignitaries constitutes a sign of international support for this country and, most of all, a sign of solidarity with the democratic system, which I feel is fundamental for nations to develop in a civilized manner. The presence of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, as well as the upcoming visits by Presidents Salinas, Gaviria, and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, means the international community is giving Venezuela important backing. [end recording]

Parliamentarians Express Support for Writer

PA0806204492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Dissident parliamentarians voiced their solidarity to Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri during a ceremony attended by representatives of various political organizations. Cecilia Pachano filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Pachano] The group of dissident parliamentarians visited the well-known writer at his residence to express to him their solidarity and to reject the attacks he has been subjected to. The dissident parliamentarians delivered to Dr. Uslar a document establishing their position and making public their solidarity:

[Julio Cesar Moreno, leader of Social Christian Party, Copei] Our visit to the award-winning writer and distinguished Venezuelan is an expression of solidarity to him and his legitimate right to express freely his views on the graveness of the historic crisis Venezuela is experiencing and on what he thinks should be the less traumatic solution to this crisis.

[Pachano] Dr. Uslar thanked the parliamentarians for the document because of its significant meaning to him and the country:

[Uslar] The document represents what we could describe as an expression of trust in that the country has peaceful and legal means to overcome the crisis. The men who signed the document represent a very broad spectrum of views. Thus, it is a document that could be described as anything but sectarian. The signees represent a very broad sector of the country.

I feel that not only these very valuable men who are involved in this gesture, which should cause a stir in the country, but also the rest of the people who are listening to and watching us, and who are experiencing the crisis, understand the scope of this message urging us to do one thing: Reach a great national consensus. [end recording]

The participants in the meeting reaffirmed their political will to find a constitutional and democratic solution to the difficulties and conflicts facing the country:

[Begin recording] [Freddy Munoz, Movement Toward Socialism, MAS, secretary general] This is more than a gesture; we are starting a process of expressing opinions, adopting political actions, and mobilizing society.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there a chance this movement might become a party or one of those groups you just criticized?

[Luis Raul Matos, independent] No, because there are representatives of well-established parties here, including MAS, Copei, and the National Integrity Movement. By the way, Dr. Uslar, moved by no political interest, just voiced his intention to support the movement. We have already talked to the prosecutor and we will now talk to groups, including the

neighborhood associations, the military, Confederation of Venezuelan Workers, General Confederation of Workers, and business representatives. I wish we could establish a great national party, but that would be contrary to the movement's goals.

[Pachano] All participants insisted the meeting pursued no political objectives, but sought only to broaden the great national agreement. [end recording]

DIM Releases Former Rebel Chiefs Bravo, Prada

PA1006043092 Paris AFP in Spanish 2324 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Caracas, 9 Jun (AFP)—Venezuelan political and legal sources have reported that former rebel chiefs Douglas Bravo and Francisco Prada were set free today in Caracas. They had been arrested on 28 May and charged with inciting violent demonstrations.

The sources added that relatives of the former guerrilla commanders picked them up at the door to the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) offices.

The Interior Ministry accused Bravo and Prada of being behind a plan for general unrest in the country, starting with the violent student demonstrations that have been rocking Venezuela since May. The demonstrations did not stop with their arrest.

According to their lawyers, Bravo and Prada—who headed the armed struggle in the sixties and seventies and became "pacified" before 1980—were exclusively dedicated to cultural activities in the last few years.

A few years ago, they forswore classic Marxism-Leninism to promote a "third path," between communism and capitalism.

Relatives reported that Bravo and Prada were set free because no arrest warrant was formally issued against them.

Security Forces Search for Attackers Near Belen

PA1006000092 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Security forces continue to comb the mountain area around the town of Belen, and temporary checkpoints have been installed to locate the alleged subversives who participated in an attack on the local police barracks. Our correspondent in Carabobo State, Luis Segundo Perez, traveled to the area and accompanied the authorities when they participated in operation being carried out in the zone. He also spoke with General Humberto Seijas Pitaluga, acting government secretary in Carabobo State, who said the weapons used in the attack belong to the Armed Forces and were stolen on 4 February. He also said at least four persons have been detained in connection with the attack. He added that security measures have been stepped up in Belen.

[Begin Seijas recording] A joint operation is being carried out in Belen by the Armed Forces, DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], PTJ [Judicial Technical Police], and DIM [Military

Intelligence Directorate], to conduct the appropriate investigation and to comb the zone because there is evidence.... [pauses] People are in the area. [end recording]